3 1761 07168403 9

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2009 with funding from
University of Toronto

http://www.archive.org/details/minutesofgeneral01phil

M.

# MINUTES

OF THE

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION

A. D. 1789 TO A. D. 1820 INCLUSIVE.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION,
NO. 821 CHESTNUT STREET.

2435
7/5/1890

# ADVERTISEMENT.

In the year 1841 the subscriber, under the joint direction of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Board of Publication, prepared for the press an octavo volume of 548 pages, embracing the early Records of the Presbyterian Church before the organization of the General Assembly. A portion of these records was in a perishing state, and all of them were liable to such casualties as might in a moment utterly destroy them. It seemed therefore extremely desirable to put them in a form so permanent, that the Church might not, by any such possible contingency, be deprived of the facts of its early history. The editor of the present volume, in order to give further security to the documents of the early Church, suggested the propriety of publishing in full the Journal of the General Assembly from the period of its organization in 1789 to the year 1821, during which time it was the custom of the Assembly to publish only extracts from their minutes. The Presbyterian Board of Publication have, under the sanction of the General Assembly, engaged in the work, and the present volume is the result. The editor, under his instructions, has only presented an annual abstract of the statistics of the Church; and indeed, with the amplest powers, he could have accomplished but little more, as the reports on the subject from the Presbyteries were generally imperfect. It was a part of the plan to derive from the files of the Assembly important and interesting documents, which in the form of notes, might illustrate the Journal, and shed additional light on the history of particular times and events. In the first part of the volume this was in a measure accomplished; but from the year 1804 to the close of the period embraced in the volume, the files of the General Assembly are unaccountably missing. It is to be hoped they are not utterly lost, but no inquiry, which was instituted, was successful in bringing them to light.

This is the more to be regretted, as there were several prominent occurrences during those years which would have been satisfactorily illustrated by documents referred to in the minutes, but no where to be found. Perhaps in future years they may be discovered and used in another edition of this volume. In regard to the Index, the editor has spared no labour to make it available for reference, and for this end he has aimed to impart to it a descriptive character. On points of principal interest, the reader will be able easily to ascertain the questions discussed by the Assembly, with the respective decisions. Much, of course, in the routine of the Assembly's business was of too temporary interest to require a distinct place in this Index; and many particular items are referred to in the first instance, when it was not thought necessary to notice them as they came up annually as regular parts of business. It is not to be doubted that the volume will be particularly acceptable to the officers of the Presbyterian Church, as it embraces much ecclesiastical information which could not otherwise have been accessible.

WILLIAM M. ENGLES,
Ed. of the Presb. Board of Publication.

PHILADELPHIA, *April,* 1847.

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

## 1789.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 21*st*, 1789.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met, agreeably to the appointment of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, in the Second Presbyterian church, in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, from 1 Cor. iii. 7. "So then, neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth: but GOD that giveth the increase."

Mr. Armstrong was chosen *pro tempore* Clerk, to make a list of the members, from the commissions, which were ordered to be delivered to him for that purpose.

Adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment; *U. P. P.*,* the Clerk read the following list of members, taken from the commissions produced to him:

PRESBYTERY OF SUFFOLK—*Minister*—Mr. Joshua Hart.

PRESBYTERY OF DUTCHESS COUNTY—*Minister*—Mr. Benjamin Judd.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Dr. John Rodgers, Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Mr. Azel Roe, and Mr. John Close.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—Dr. John Witherspoon, Dr. Samuel S. Smith, and Mr. James F. Armstrong. *Elder*—Mr. Nehemiah Dunham.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Mr. James Sproat, Dr. George Duffield, and Dr. John Ewing. *Elders*—Mr. Isaac Snowden, Mr. Ferguson McIlvane, and Mr. Elijah Clark.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Ministers*—Dr. Robert Smith, Mr. James Latta, and Mr. Thos. Read. *Elders*—Mr. Moses Irwin, Mr. Amos Slaymaker, and Mr. John Crawford.

PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—*Minister*—Dr. Mathew Wilson.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—*Minister*—Dr. Patrick Alison.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Mr. Robert Cooper, Mr. Thos. McPherrin, and Mr. James Snodgrass. *Elders*—Mr. Samuel Edie, Mr. James Dixon.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—*Elder*—Hon. John Baird.

PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—*Minister*—Mr. Moses Hoge.

Mr. Adam Rankin, a member of the Presbytery of Transylvania, appeared in the General Assembly, and acquainted them that the information of the constitution of this body did not arrive time enough to make a constitutional appointment of members from that Presbytery: and some of his brethren having recommended it to him to come to the General Assembly, he desires to be admitted to the privileges of a member.

On motion, *Resolved*, that the General Assembly, wishing to promote the union of the churches under their care, do admit Mr. Rankin to sit as a member; but declare that it shall not be drawn into precedent, after the constitution of this Church shall have been published, agreeably to the order of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia.

---

* In this and the following Minutes, the letters U. P. P. S. Q. S. mean, Ubi post preces sederunt qui supra.—EDITOR.

The General Assembly proceeded to the election of a Moderator, and Dr. Rodgers was chosen; and Dr. Duffield and Mr. Armstrong were chosen Clerks.

Dr. Witherspoon, and Messrs. Latta and Roe, Ministers; and Messrs. Irwin, Dunham, and Snowden, Elders, were appointed a committee to examine the commissions, and to report to-morrow morning.

Dr. R. Smith, Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Read, Ministers; and Messrs. Baird, Clark, and McIlvane, Elders, were appointed a committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock in this church, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

On motion, *Resolved* unanimously, that an address be presented from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to the President of the United States; and that Drs. Witherspoon, Alison, and S. S. Smith, be a committee to draught said address.

Drs. Ewing, Wilson, McWhorter, R. Smith, and Mr. Read, Ministers; and Messrs. Crawford and Slaymaker, Elders, were appointed a committee to draw up rules for the government of the General Assembly in their proceedings, and to make report as soon as convenient.

The General Assembly, considering the great utility which may attend addressing the churches under their care, upon the present state of religion, the new arrangements in church government and discipline, and the state of civil government, ordered, that Drs. Wilson and S. S. Smith be a committee to prepare a draught for this purpose, and report as soon as convenient.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d*, 1789—9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment: *U. P. P. S. qui supra.*

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last *sederunt.*

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last Sessions of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia.

The committee, appointed to examine the commissions, report, that having examined all the commissions, they find that the commissioners, in the list made out yesterday, were duly elected; and that, excepting some small deviations from form, the commissions were properly made out. Ordered that the several Presbyteries be particularly attentive to prescribed forms, when such may be had, in all official papers to be made out agreeably to the constitution of this Church.

Col. John Bayard appeared in the General Assembly, and having produced a commission appointing him a commissioner on behalf of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, it was approved, and he took his seat accordingly.

Dr. Alison and Mr. Baird were appointed a committee, to settle the accounts of the fund of the General Assembly with their Treasurer, and to report as soon as convenient.

The committee appointed to superintend the printing and publishing of the constitution, &c., was ordered to call on Mr. Bradford, the printer whom they employed to print said constitution, and to inquire of him the reasons why the publication has been so long delayed, and what assurances he can give to the Assembly as to the time in which it shall be published, and to make report in the afternoon.

The Synods of New York and New Jersey, of Philadelphia, and of Virginia, report, that they met agreeably to the appointments of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia.

No commissioner having yet attended from any of the Presbyteries of the Synod of the Carolinas, no report has been brought in.

It was overtured by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, that the General Assembly should warmly recommend it to the respective Synods, that they take order that the Presbyteries under their care be punctual, in appointing and sending their due number of delegates to the General Assembly, agreeably to the constitution; in order to promote and strengthen the union of the Presbyterian Church: on the above overture,

Ordered, That Drs. Robert and Samuel S. Smith be a committee to draught said recommendation, and to report to-morrow morning.

On motion, Ordered, That the minutes of the respective Synods be laid yearly, before the General Assembly, to be by them revised.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the respective Synods make yearly reports to the General Assembly of all the licensures, ordinations, instalments, translations, resignations, deaths, and whatever changes may take place among the members within their bounds.

In order to give time to the different committees to prepare their reports, the General Assembly adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*Saturday, May* 23*d*, 1789—9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, agreeably to adjournment: *U. P. P. S. qui supra.*

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last *sederunt.*

The committee appointed to draught a recommendation to the several Synods, respecting punctuality in appointing and sending commissioners to the General Assembly, not being prepared to report, desired a longer time.

The committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, report, that they appear, by sufficient vouchers, to be just and true; and that there remains in favour of the said Synod, a balance of one hundred and two pounds, twelve shillings and nine pence, in Pennsylvania paper, of the emission of 1785; and twenty eight pounds, three shillings and four pence, in specie; which now belongs to the General Assembly; which is submitted.

£102 12 9 PATRICK ALISON,
28 3 4 JOHN BAIRD.
23*d May*, 1789.

The General Assembly approved the above report; which was ordered to be entered on the files of the house. The General Assembly proceeded to the election of a Treasurer, when Mr. Isaac Snowden was chosen, and the funds of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, now the funds of the General Assembly, were put into his hands, as Treasurer of the General Assembly.

The committee appointed to prepare rules for the government of the Assembly in their proceedings, made report; and the rules, having been read and amended, were adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes of the house. These rules are as follows: viz.

I. The Moderator shall take the chair at the hour at which the Assembly stands adjourned: shall immediately call the members to order; and on the appearance of a quorum, shall open the session with prayer; and cause the minutes of the preceding session to be read; and on every adjournment shall conclude with prayer.

II. The Moderator may speak to points of order, in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the house, by any two members.

III. The General Assembly, at every meeting, shall appoint a committee of bills and overtures, to prepare and digest business for the Assembly. Any person, thinking himself aggrieved by this committee, may complain to the Assembly.

IV. Petitions, references, and appeals; and, usually, all new propositions tending to general laws, shall be laid before the committee of bills and overtures, before they be offered to the Assembly.

V. A motion made must be seconded, and afterwards repeated by the Moderator, or read aloud, before it is debated. And every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Moderator, or any member, require it.

VI. Any member, who shall have made a motion, shall have liberty to withdraw it, before any debate had thereon; but not afterwards, without leave of the Assembly.

VII. On questions of order, adjournment, postponement, commitment, or the previous question, no member shall speak more than once. On all other questions, each member may speak twice; but not oftener, without express leave of the house.

VIII. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, unless to amend it, to postpone it, to commit it, for the previous question, or to adjourn.

IX. The previous question shall be in this form, "Shall the main question be now put?" and, until it is decided, shall preclude all amendment, and farther debate of the main question.

X. An amendment may be moved on any motion; and shall be decided before the original motion.

XI. If a question under debate contains several parts, any member may have it divided, and a question taken on each part.

XII. Every member, when speaking, shall address himself to the chair; and shall treat his fellow members, especially the Moderator, with decency and respect. If a member act disorderly, it shall be the duty of the Moderator, and the privilege of the other members, to call him to order.

XIII. A question shall not be called up, or reconsidered, at the same sessions of the Assembly at which it has been decided; unless by consent of two-thirds of the members who were present at the decision.

XIV. Any member, who may think himself aggrieved by a decision of the General Assembly, shall have his dissent, or protest, with his reasons, entered on the records of Assembly, or filed among their papers, if given in before the rising of the Assembly.

XV. If any member act indecently, or disorderly, contrary to these rules, the Moderator shall reprove, or otherwise censure him, as the Assembly shall judge proper. And if any member shall think himself denied of any right, or unjustly blamed by the Moderator, he shall not speak disrespectfully to him; but modestly require the decision of the house in the case.

The committee appointed to inquire the cause of delay of publication of the constitution, is ordered to make report on Monday next.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Saturday*, 23*d May*, 3 *o'clock*, *P. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*, except Col. Bayard, who had leave of absence for the afternoon.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The committee appointed to draught an address to the President of the United States, reported an address, which was read twice, and ordered to lie on the table for the consideration of the members.

The clerks informed the General Assembly, that the contribution made of a quarter of a dollar by each commissioner, amounted to eight dollars and one quarter, in specie; which was given into the hands of the Assembly-treasurer. 3*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.*, specie.

The Rev. Mr. Templeton appeared in the General Assembly; and having produced a commission, appointing him a commissioner, on behalf of the Presbytery of South Carolina, it was approved, and he took his seat accordingly.

The committee appointed by the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, to revise the chapter of the directory entitled, "Of the mode of inflicting church censures," laid before the Assembly the chapter, as by them revised; which, being considered and amended, was finally enacted, and ordered to be printed and published with the constitution.

Adjourned till Monday, 9 o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday, May 25th,* 1789, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, agreeably to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The delegates appointed by the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia to the convention, consisting of delegates from "The Associate Reformed, and the Reformed Protestant Dutch Synod," which met the eighth of October last, in New York, laid the proceedings of the convention before the General Assembly. The Assembly, having approved the conduct of their delegates, ordered the proceedings of the convention to be kept among the records of Assembly; and appointed the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Woodhull, Mr. J. Reed, Mr. Roe, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Monteith, ministers; and Col. Bayard and Dr. Scott, elders; and they are hereby appointed delegates on behalf of the General Assembly, to meet delegates from the Associate Reformed, and the Reformed Protestant Dutch Synods, in the city of New Brunswick, on the third Wednesday of June, 1789.

Col. Bayard and Mr. Snowden were added to the committee to receive proposals from Mr. Bradford, and to make a specific agreement with him for printing the constitution, &c., of this church; and the committee is ordered to make report in the afternoon.

The Synod of the Carolinas reported, by Mr. Templeton, that they met, agreeably to the appointment of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia.

Ordered, That Drs. Witherspoon and Duffield, ministers, and Mr. Snowden, elder, be a committee to select such parts of the minutes of the General Assembly as they judge proper; and that they have five hundred copies printed, and forwarded to the Synods and Presbyteries under their care; and that the expenses of printing be defrayed by the Assembly-treasurer.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of a letter to be sent to the respective Synods, brought in a draught; which, having been considered and amended, was approved, and is as follows:

*To the Rev. Synod of . . . . . . . . to meet at . . . . . . . . .*
*on the . . . . day of . . . . . . . . A. D.,* 1789.

The General Assembly, afflicted at the circumstances, both of distance, and perhaps of poverty, that so often prevent a full and respectable representation of our church in its supreme judicatory, hath thought it proper to address the several Synods within this body on this interesting subject. The dignity of our church, its weight and influence in the United States, and even the utility of its ordinances to the great ends of religion, will depend much on the unity of our counsels, and on the order and efficiency of our government. While the interest of religion ought to be our first and ruling object, we ought not to forget how necessary it is, for that great purpose, to preserve our character as a body, and our consequence in the republic, in comparison with other denominations of Christians. Without a common intelligence and concert in our measures, our respectability will be diminished; and our efforts for the public good, and for the promotion of religion, will be weakened by becoming divided. Divisions of sentiment, and, perhaps, in the end, alienation of mind, will result from division of counsels, and the want of concert, in that great source of power, which ought to pervade and unite the whole body.

The Assembly, impressed with these views, think it necessary to urge, in the most earnest manner, the respective Synods to take effectual measures that all the Presbyteries send up, in due season, their full representation. And inasmuch as the expenses of delegates, from remote Presbyteries, must be much greater than their ordinary finances will allow, and the length of their absence from their pastoral charges must be attended with inconvenience to the people, the Assembly recommend to every Synod to provide a fund, or to enjoin it on their Presbyteries to provide separate funds for defraying those expenses by collections, annually made from every congregation, and, during the absence of their delegates, to furnish their congregations with proper supplies, to maintain the public worship of God. And that the Assembly may be possessed of a complete knowledge of the whole church under their direction, and see that perfect consistency and order be preserved therein; they have ordered, that the Synod books of the several Synods be sent, annually, up to the place of their meeting, for inspection. And they have farther ordered, that proper returns be annually made from the Synods of the number of their Presbyteries, their members, their licentiates, their candidates, deaths, and removals. And also the number of vacant congregations within their respective bounds; and, that their knowledge on this subject may be the more complete and certain, they have ordered that the Presbyteries, composing the Synods, should send up duplicates of said returns by their delegates to the Assembly. Praying that you may enjoy all peace, union, and prosperity in the Lord, we are, dear brethren, your affectionate fellow labourers in his common vineyard.

Signed by order, JOHN RODGERS, *Moderator.*

Ordered, that a copy of the above letter, signed by the Moderator, in the name of the General Assembly, be sent to each of the Synods.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures overture, that the state of the frontier settlements should be taken into consideration, and missionaries sent to them, to form them into congregations, ordain elders, administer the sacraments, and direct them to the best measures for obtaining the gospel ministry regularly among them.

Ordered, That Drs. Alison and S. S. Smith be a committee to devise such measures as may be best calculated to carry the mission into execution, and to report in the afternoon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday, May 25th,* 1789, 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The committee for printing, &c., inform the Assembly, that they are not ready to report, and beg leave to defer it till to-morrow morning; which was granted.

The committee appointed to devise measures to carry the mission to the frontiers into execution, made the following report, which was adopted, viz:

*Resolved,* That each of the Synods be, and they are hereby requested, to recommend to the General Assembly, at their next meeting, two members, well qualified to be employed in missions on our frontiers; for the purposes of organizing churches, administering ordinances, ordaining elders, collecting information concerning the religious state of those parts, and proposing the best means of establishing a gospel ministry among the people. And in order to provide means for defraying the necessary expenses of the mission, it is strictly enjoined on the several Presbyteries, to have collections made during the present year, in the several congregations under our care, and forwarded to Isaac Snowden, Esq., the Treasurer of the General Assembly, with all convenient speed.

The following query, signed by a member of the Presbytery of Transylvania, was overtured, by the Committee of Overtures:

"*Quere:* Whether the churches under the care of the General Assembly, have not, by the countenance and allowance of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, fallen into a great and pernicious error in the public worship of God, by disusing Rouse's versification of David's Psalms, and adopting in the room of it, Watts's imitation? Conscience is the motive that has induced me to make the above inquiry, and I trust I shall be heard on the subject with candour. ADAM RANKIN."

Agreeably to his request, Mr. Rankin was heard as long as he chose to speak:—and Doctors R. Smith, Wilson, and Duffield, with Mr. Latta, ministers; and Messrs. Dunham and Irwin, elders, were appointed a committee to report a draught of a minute on this affair; and with whom Mr. Rankin is desired to converse on the subject.

The following case was overtured, by the Committee of Overtures, viz:

"Whether the General Assembly, out of their liberality, charity, and candour, will admit to their communion, in the ecclesiastic assemblies, as far as they can consistently with the scrupulosity of their consciences, a Presbytery who are totally averse to the doctrine of receiving, hearing, or judging of any appeals from Presbyteries to Synods; and from Synods to General Assemblies: because, in their judgment, it is inconsistent with Scripture, and the practice of the primitive churches?" In answer to which the General Assembly reply—That, although they consider the right of appeal, from the decision of an inferior judicature to a superior, an important privilege, which no member of their body ought to be deprived of, yet they at the same time declare, that they do not desire any member to be active, in any case which may be inconsistent with the dictates of his conscience.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*Tuesday, 26th day, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, agreeably to adjournment, *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The committee appointed on Mr. Rankin's affair, reported the following draught of a minute, which was adopted, viz:—The General Assembly having heard Mr. Rankin at great length, and endeavoured to relieve his mind from the difficulties he appears to labour under, are sorry to find that all their efforts have been in vain; and, therefore, only recommend to him that exercise of Christian charity towards those who differ from him in their views of this matter, which is exercised towards himself: and that he be carefully guarded against disturbing the peace of the church on this head.

The General Assembly took into consideration the draught of an address to the President of the United States, which, being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*To the President of the United States,*

SIR—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United

States of America, embrace the earliest opportunity in their power, to testify the lively and unfeigned pleasure which they, with the rest of their fellow-citizens, feel, on your appointment to the first office in the nation.

We adore Almighty God, the author of every perfect gift, who hath endued you with such a rare and happy assemblage of talents, as hath rendered you equally necessary to your country in war and in peace. Your military achievements insured safety and glory to America, in the late arduous conflict for freedom; while your disinterested conduct, and uniformly just discernment of the public interest, gained you the entire confidence of the people: And in the present interesting period of public affairs, the influence of your personal character moderates the divisions of political parties, and promises a permanent establishment of the civil government.

From a retirement more glorious than thrones and sceptres, you have been called to your present elevated station. by the advice of a great and a free people; and with an unanimity of suffrage that has few, if any, examples in history. A man more ambitious of fame, or less devoted to his country, would have refused an office in which his honours could not be augmented, and where they might possibly be subject to a reverse. We are happy that God has inclined your heart to give yourself once more to the public. And we derive a favourable presage of the event, from the zeal of all classes of the people, and their confidence in your virtues; as well as from the knowledge and dignity with which the federal councils are filled. But we derive a presage, even more flattering, from the piety of your character. Public virtue is the most certain means of public felicity; and religion is the surest basis of virtue. We therefore esteem it a peculiar happiness to behold in our chief magistrate, a steady, uniform, avowed friend of the Christian religion; who has commenced his administration in rational and exalted sentiments of piety; and who, in his private conduct, adorns the doctrines of the gospel of Christ; and on the most public and solemn occasions, devoutly acknowledges the government of Divine Providence.

The example of distinguished characters will ever possess a powerful and extensive influence on the public mind; and when we see in such a conspicuous station, the amiable example of piety to God, of benevolence to men, and of a pure and virtuous patriotism, we naturally hope that it will diffuse its influence; and that, eventually, the most happy consequences will result from it. To the force of imitation, we will endeavour to add the wholesome instructions of religion. We shall consider ourselves as doing an acceptable service to God, in our profession, when we contribute to render men sober, honest, and industrious citizens, and the obedient subjects of a lawful government. In these pious labours, we hope to imitate the most worthy of our brethren of other Christian denominations, and to be imitated by them; assured that if we can, by mutual and generous emulation, promote truth and virtue, we shall render a great and important service to the republic; shall receive encouragement from every wise and good citizen; and, above all, meet the approbation of our Divine Master.

We pray Almighty God to have you always in his holy keeping. May he prolong your valuable life, an ornament and a blessing to your country, and at last bestow on you the glorious reward of a faithful servant.

Signed by order of the General Assembly,
JOHN RODGERS, *Moderator.*

*Philadelphia, May 26th*, 1789.

The General Assembly, considering the importance of preserving faithful and correct impressions of the Holy Scriptures; and as Mr. Collins, printer to the State of New Jersey, proposes to make an impression of the Old and

New Testaments, and wishes the countenance and support of all denominations of Christians;

On motion, *Resolved*, That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, in order to give effectual encouragement to this undertaking, do hereby appoint the Rev. Mr. Joshua Hart, Mr. Judd, Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Mr. James F. Armstrong, Dr. George Duffield, Mr. Thomas Read, Dr. Mathew Wilson, Dr. Patrick Alison, Mr. Robert Cooper, Mr. James Finley, Mr. Moses Hoge, Mr. John Blair Smith, Mr. James McKee, Mr. Hezekiah Balch, Mr. Thomas H. McCaulle, and Mr. David Rice, to lay Mr. Collins's proposals before their respective Presbyteries, and to recommend to them, by order of the General Assembly, that a person or persons be appointed in every congregation, vacant or supplied, to procure subscriptions; and that the Presbyteries transmit by their commissioners to the next General Assembly the number of subscribers. The General Assembly also confirm the appointment made by the Synod of New York and New Jersey, that Dr. John Witherspoon, Dr. Samuel S. Smith, and Mr. James F. Armstrong, be a committee to concur with any such committee as may be appointed, whether from any other denomination, or from any other Synod of our denomination, to revise and correct the proof sheets; and, if necessary, to fix upon the most correct edition of the Scriptures to be recommended to the printer, from which to make his impression; and that the said committee be ordered to agree with the printer, that Ostervald's notes, if not inconsistent with the views of other denominations of Christians engaged in this undertaking, be printed with it, in such manner as may best promote the publication.

The General Assembly, desirous to spread the knowledge of eternal life contained in the Holy Scriptures, earnestly recommend to all the congregations under their care to encourage this undertaking.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th*, 1789—3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met, agreeably to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The committee for printing the constitution reported two proposals from Mr. Thomas Bradford:—1. To print it at his own expense, with a copy-right for seven years. 2. To print it at a certain price.

On which the General Assembly

*Resolved*, That the constitution be printed at the expense of the General Assembly; and that the committee, or a majority of them, enter into an agreement with Mr. Bradford; and that, on the best terms they can, they have a number of copies, not less than a thousand, nor greater than fifteen hundred, printed and bound in such a manner as may best promote the sale; and that the committee draw, for the price of printing and binding, on the Treasurer of the Assembly, who is hereby ordered to pay it out of the present moneys in the funds. And the Assembly earnestly recommend it to the different Presbyteries, to pay particular attention to have the fund reimbursed out of the sales of the book.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay to Mr. Peter Leslie, for attendance on the General Assembly, and for necessary expenses, three pounds, three shillings and nine pence, and charge it to the fund. £3 3 9.

Ordered, That Dr. Duffield, Stated Clerk of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, be allowed two pounds, for the expense of having the minutes of the last sessions of said Synod transcribed. And that Dr. Duffield be appointed Stated Clerk of the Assembly, procure a proper book into which to transcribe their minutes, and lay the expense of the book, and of transcribing the minutes, before the General Assembly, at their next meeting.

The General Assembly adjourned, to meet on the third Thursday in May, 1790, at 11 o'clock A. M., in the first Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia. Concluded with prayer.

## STATISTICS.

As it may be desirable to record in this place the state of the Presbyterian Church at the time of the organization of the General Assembly, we insert the following statistics, prepared in the preceding year, and published by order of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia.

### Presbytery of Suffolk.

| *Ministers.* | *Congregations.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|
| Samuel Buel, | East-Hampton. | |
| Noah Westmore, | Brook-Haven. | |
| Sampson Ocum, | New-Stockbridge, Brotherton, (in the Oneida country.) | |
| Benjamin Goldsmith, | South-Hold. | |
| David Rose, | South-Haven. | |
| Elam Potter, | | |
| Joshua Hart, | | |
| Joshua Williams, | South-Hampton. | |
| Nathan Woodhull, | Huntington. | |
| Thomas Russel, | West-Hampton. | |
| Aaron Woolworth, | Bridge-Hampton. | |
| *Probationers.* | *Vacant.* | |
| Asa Hillyer, | Jamaica. | |
| | Hampstead. | |
| | Smith-Town. | |

### Presbytery of Dutchess County.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Solomon Mead, | Lower Salem. | |
| Wheeler Case, | Charlotte Precinct. | |
| Ichabod Lewis, | Philippi. | |
| Samuel Mills, | Fredericksburg. | |
| Blackleach Burret, | | |
| John Davenport, | Bedford. | |
| | *Vacant.* | |
| | Poundridge. | |
| | White Plains. | |
| | West-Fredericksburg. | |
| | Providence. | |

### Presbytery of New York.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Timothy Jones, D. D. | Morris-Town, | 2 8 0 |
| Aaron Richards, | Rahway, | 0 10 6 |
| John Rodgers, D. D. | New-York, | 10 2 5 |
| Jonathan Elmer, | New-Providence. | |
| Hugh Knox, D. D. | St. Croix. | |
| Abner Brush, | | |
| Benjamin Woodruff, | Westfield. | |
| Alex. M'Whorter, D. D. | Newark. | |
| Azel Roe, | Woodbridge, | 1 4 0 |
| Nathan Ker, | Goshen, | 0 10 0 |
| John Close, | New-Windsor,<br>Newburgh, | 1 3 0 |
| Jedediah Chapman, | Orangedale, | 9 16 0 |
| Alexander Miller, | | |
| William Woodhull, | | |
| Jacob Van Artsdalen, | Springfield, | 1 1 0 |

## PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK, *Continued.*

| *Ministers.* | *Congregations.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|
| William Schenck, | Balls-Town. | |
| John Warford, | Salem, | 0 13 0 |
| John Joline, | Mendham. | |
| Andrew King, | Wallkill, | 0 15 0 |
| James Glassbrook, | | |
| John McDonald, | Albany, | 5 14 8 |
| Lemuel Fordham, | Roxborough, and<br>Suckasunny Plains. | |
| *Probationers.* | *Vacant.* | |
| Peter Fish, | South Hanover. | |
| John Lindley, | Elizabeth-Town. | |
| John Young, | Connecticut Farms. | |
| | Hardy's-Town. | |
| | Wantage. | |
| | New-Hampstead. | |
| | Hopewell. | |
| | Staten-Island. | |
| | New-Town. | |
| | Cambridge, | 0 8 0 |
| | Kingsbury. | |
| | East-Ball's-Town. | |
| | Schenectady. | |
| | Curry's Bush. | |
| | Remsin's Bush. | |
| | Cherry Valley, John's-Town, New-Scotland. | |
| | Harper's Field. | |
| | Amount in York money, | 26 17 1 |
| | Equal to Proclamation, | £24 14 2 |

## PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Witherspoon, D. D. | Princeton, President of New-Jersey College, | 1 12 0 |
| Israel Reed, | Bound Brook, | 1 4 0 |
| John Hannah, | Kingwood, | 1 0 0 |
| Thomas Smith, | Cranbury, | 1 15 0 |
| John Woodhull, | Freehold, | 2 5 0 |
| Samuel Smith, | Vice-President of New-Jersey College. | |
| Philip Stockton, | | |
| James F. Armstrong, | Trenton, | 2 0 0 |
| Joseph Rue, | Pennington, | 2 0 0 |
| Joseph Clark, | Allentown, | 1 8 0 |
| Peter Wilson, | Independence,<br>Mansfield. | |
| William Boyd, | Bedminister, | 1 1 0 |
| Walter Monteith, | New-Brunswick, | 1 10 0 |
| James Muir, | | |
| Ira Condict, | Hardwick, | 1 1 0 |
| | Newton, | 0 12 6 |
| | Shapanack, | 0 12 0 |
| Asa Dunham, | Mount-Bethel, | 2 0 0 |
| | Oxford. | |
| | *Vacant.* | |
| | Trenton, old house, | 1 0 0 |
| | Amwell, | 1 0 0 |
| | Maidenhead, | 1 1 0 |
| | Bethlehem, | 1 0 0 |

## PRESBYTERY OF NEW-BRUNSWICK, *Continued.*

| *Ministers.* | *Congregations.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|
| | Greenwich, | 1 4 0 |
| | Nolton, | 1 1 0 |
| | Shrewsbury. | |
| | Shark River. | |
| | Milstone. | |
| | Amount in New-Brunswick Presbytery, | £27 6 6 |

## PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James Sproat, D. D. | Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, | 8 9 0 |
| George Duffield, D. D. | Third ditto Church, Philad., | 8 10 0 |
| John Ewing, D. D. | Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, First ditto Church, Philadelphia. | |
| John Symonton, | Great Valley. | |
| Francis Peppard, | Allen-Town. | |
| James Boyd, | Newton,<br>Bensalem, | 1 13 0 |
| James Watt, | Cape May. | |
| William M. Tennent, | Abington,<br>Norrington,<br>Providence, | 1 8 0 |
| Nathaniel Irwin, | Neshaminy, | 0 15 0 |
| Andrew Hunter, | Woodbury. | |
| James Grier, | Deep Run. | |
| George Faitoute, | Greenwich, | 0 9 3 |
| Ashbel Green, | Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. | |
| | Amount, | £21 4 3 |

*Vacant.*

Fairfield.
Deerfield.
Pitts-Grove.
Penn's-Neck.
Timber Creek.
Tinnicum.

## PRESBYTERY OF NEW-CASTLE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Robert Smith, D. D. | Pequea, | 1 5 9 |
| William McKennan, | Redclay Creek, and Wilmington. | |
| Colin McFarquhar, | Donegal, | 0 15 0 |
| James Latta, | Chestnut Level, | 1 0 9 |
| John McCreary, | Whiteclay Creek,<br>Head of Christiana. | |
| Alexander Mitchel, | Upper Octorara and Doe Run. | |
| Thomas Read, | Drawyers, | 1 17 6 |
| James Anderson, | Middleton, Chester County, | 0 15 0 |
| Thomas Smith, | Middleton, Delaware,<br>Pencader, | 0 19 3 |
| Daniel Jones, | | |
| William R. Smith, | Wilmington, | 1 2 6 |
| Nathaniel W. Semple, | Leacock, Lancaster, and Middle Octorara, | 0 17 6 |
| James Munro, | West-Nottingham, | 1 0 0 |
| John E. Finley, | Faggs Manor. | |
| John Burton, | St. George's, | 1 2 0 |

### PRESBYTERY OF NEW-CASTLE, *Continued.*

| *Ministers.* | *Congregations.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|
| Nathan Grier, | Forks of Brandywine. | |
| *Probationers.* | *Vacant.* | |
| Matthew Tate, | New-Castle. | |
| | Christiana Bridge, | 0 15 0 |
| | East-Nottingham. | |
| | New-London. | |
| | Little Britain. | |
| | Amount, | £14 6 6 |

### PRESBYTERY OF LEWES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Miller, | Dover, and<br>Duck Run. | |
| Matthew Wilson, D. D. | Lewes-Town,<br>Cool Spring, and<br>Indian River. | |
| Jacob Ker, | Monokin,<br>Wicomico. | |
| John Rankin, | Buckingham,<br>Blackwater. | |
| Samuel McMasters, | Snowhill,<br>Pitt's Creek,<br>Rehoboth, | 3 10 0 |
| William McKee, | Murderkiln,<br>Three Runs,<br>St. Johnston. | |
| | *Vacant.* | |
| | Vienna. | |
| | Fishing Creek. | |
| | Accomac. | |
| | Broad Creek. | |

### PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James Hunt, | Bladensburg,<br>Captain John. | 5 18 10 |
| John Slemons, | Slate Ridge,<br>Chance Ford, | 2 4 6 |
| Patrick Alison, D. D. | Baltimore-Town, | 7 18 0 |
| Isaac S. Keith, | Alexandria, | 3 0 0 |
| Stephen B. Balch, | George-Town, on Potomac, | 1 15 0 |
| George Luckey, | Bethel,<br>Centre, | 1 10 0 |
| | Amount, | £22 6 4 |
| | *Vacant.* | |
| | Hopewell. | |
| | Frederick-Town. | |
| | Soldier's Delight. | |

### PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Elder, | Paxton,<br>Derry. | |
| John Hoge. | | |
| Hugh McGill, | Tuscarora,<br>Cedar Spring. | |
| Charles Nesbit, D. D. | President of Dickinson College. | |
| James Martin, | Piney Creek, | 0 15 0 |
| Robert McMordie. | | |
| Robert Cooper, | Middle Spring, | 1 15 0 |
| James Lang, | Falling Spring,<br>East Cannegocheague. | 1 12 0 |

### PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE, *Continued.*

| *Ministers.* | *Congregations.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|
| John Craighead, | Rocky Spring. | |
| John King, | Upper West Cannegocheague, | 1 10 0 |
| Hugh Vance, | Tuscarora, in Virginia,<br>Back Creek. | 1 10 0 |
| Thomas McFarren, | Lower East-Cannegocheague,<br>Lower West-Cannegocheague, | 1 10 0<br>1 3 4 |
| Robert Davidson, D. D. | Carlisle, | 2 0 0 |
| John Black, | Upper Marsh Creek, | 1 0 0 |
| Samuel Dougal, | Path Valley. | |
| John McKnight, | Lower Marsh Creek,<br>Tom's Creek, | 0 14 0<br>0 10 10 |
| John Linn, | Sherman's Valley, | 1 15 0 |
| Samuel Waugh, | East-Pennsborough,<br>Manahan, | 1 15 0 |
| David Bard, | Bedford. | |
| Joseph Henderson, | Great Conewago, | 0 15 0 |
| Matthew Stephens, | Derry,<br>Waine, on the Juniata. | |
| James Johnson, | Kishacoquillas. | |
| John Johnson, | Hart's Log,<br>Shaver's Creek. | |
| Samuel Wilson, | Big Spring. | |
| James Snodgrass, | Hanover. | |
| Hugh Morrison, | Sunbury, Northumberland Town,<br>Buffalo Valley. | |
| *Probationer.* | *Vacant.* | |
| Joseph Caldwell, | York-Town. | |
| | Hagar's Town, Shepherd's-Town, Charles-Town, Falling-Waters, Cool Spring, Romney, Patterson's Creek, Great Cove, Great Aughwick, Standing Stone, Frank's-Town, Penn's Valley, Chillisquaque, Warrior's Run, Muncy, Lycoming, Mahoning, Fishing Creek, Dick's Gap, Sherman's Creek, Upper Paxton. | |

### PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James Finley, | Rehoboth,<br>Roundhill. | |
| John Clark, | Lebanon,<br>Bethel. | |
| Joseph Smith, | Buffalo,<br>Cross Creek. | |
| John McMillan, | Chartiers,<br>Pigeon Creek, | 1 12 6 |
| James Power, | Mount Pleasant,<br>Sawickly. | |
| Thaddeus Dodd, | Ten Mile. | |
| James Dunlap, | Redstone,<br>Dunlap's Creek. | |
| Samuel Barr, | Pittsburgh. | |
| | *Vacant.* | |
| | Fairfield, Donegal, Unity, Salem, Poke Run, Long Run, Glades of Sandy Creek, Muddy Creek, Morgan-Town, George's Creek, Pike Run, Montuier's Run, Potato Garden, Mill Creek, King's Creek, Short Creek, Three Ridges. | |

### PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON.

| *Ministers.* | *Congregations.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|
| John Brown, | New-Providence, | 1 5 0 |
| William Graham. | | |
| James McConnel. | | |
| Archibald Scott, | Bethel and Brown's Church, | 1 5 0 |
| Edward Crawford. | | |
| John Montgomery, | Winchester,<br>Opecken, and<br>Cedar Creek, | 4 16 10 |
| Benjamin Erwin. | Mossey Creek,<br>Cook's Creek, | 0 14 0 |
| William Wilson, | Augusta. | |
| Moses Hoge. | | |
| John McCre, | Companion,<br>Good Hope. | |
| | *Vacant.* | |
| | Concrete, | 0 17 0 |
| | Timber Ridge and Hall's Church, | 2 8 9 |
| | Tinkling Spring, Windy Cove, Pleasant Run, High Bridge, Falling Spring, Oxford Roan Oak, Jackson's River, Locust Bottom, Sinks, Little Levels, Tigers Valley, Little River, Rocky Springs. | |
| | | £15 6 7 |

### PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Richard Sankey, | Buffalo Creek, | 1 5 0 |
| John Todd, | Providence,<br>Bird, and<br>Fork of Pomunky. | 3 16 10 |
| James Waddell. | | |
| William Irvine, | North-Garden, Rich Cove,<br>Mountain Plains, and Dee Ess. | |
| John Blair Smith, | Cumberland,<br>Briery. | 5 0 0 |
| James Mitchel, | Peaks of Otter. | |
| John D. Blair, | Hanover.<br>Henrico, | 7 12 5 |
| *Probationer.* | *Vacant.* | |
| William Mahon. | Cub Creek, | 1 5 0 |
| | Rock Fish, Concord, Hat Creek, Fauquier, Bluestone, Lancaster, Head of Smith's River. | |
| | | £18 19 3 |

### PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Henry Patillo, | Grassy Creek, and Nut Bush. | |
| David Caldwell, | Buffalo, and Allamance. | |
| Samuel McCorkle, | Thyatira, and Third Creek, | 2 14 0 |
| James Hall, | Bethany, Concord, and<br>Fourth Creek, | 3 12 0 |
| Robert Archibald, | Rocky River, and Poplar Tent, | 1 12 0 |
| James McKee, | Steel Creek, | 1 4 0 |
| David Barr, | Sandy River and Tomahawk. | |
| Jacob Leake, | Little River, E. and O. New Hope, | |
| Daniel Thatcher | | |
| Samuel Huston. | | £9 2 0 |

### PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE, *Continued.*

| *Ministers.* | *Congregations.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Vacant.* | |
| | Center, Clear Creek, Casswell, Chestnut Spring, Chegstat Spring, Deep River, Goshen in Duplin, Goshen in Lincoln, Golden Grove, Hopewell, Upper & Lower Hico, Upper and Lower Haw River, Hawfield, Hunting Creek, Hollows, Joppa, Jersey Settlement, Knob Creek, Long Creek, Little River, Little Britain, Mountain Creek, Moore's Creek, Muddy Creek, Providence, Pleasant Garden, Quaker Meadows, Reed Fork, Speedwell, Smyrna, Stony, Sandy, and Sugar Creek. | |

### PRESBYTERY OF ABINGTON.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Charles Cummins, | Sinking Spring. | |
| Hezekiah Balch, | Mount Bethel. | |
| John Cosson, | Providence. | |
| Samuel Doak, | Salem. | |
| *Probationer.* | *Vacant.* | |
| James Balch. | Providence. | |
| | Unity, Upper Holstein, Crab Orchard, Chestnut Ridge, Ebbing Spring, Forks of Holstein, North Fork, Valley Church, New-Bethel, Nobs, Concord, Buffaloe, Hopewell, New-Providence, Big Pigeon, Little Pigeon, Boyd's Neck, Little River. | |

### PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James Edmonds. | | |
| John Harris. | | |
| Joseph Alexander, | Bullock's Creek. | |
| John Simpson, | Fishing Creek. | |
| Thomas Reese, | Salem. | |
| Thomas H. McCaule, | Jackson's Creek. | |
| James Templeton. | | |
| Francis Cummins, | Bethel. | |
| Robert Finley, | Waxhaw. | |
| Robert Hall, | Saluda and Upper Long Cane. | |
| Robert Mecklin, | Rocky River & Lower Long Cane. | |
| *Probationers.* | *Vacant.* | |
| John Newton, | Brush River, Indian Town, Williamsburgh, Rocky Neck, Beaver Creek, Cedar Creek, Catholic, Bethesda, Shiloh, Hopewell, Nazareth, Pacolet, Fair Forest, Purity, Upper and Lower Union, Indian Creek, Ebenezer, Little River, Duncan's Creek, Rocky Creek, Ninety Six, Golden Grove, 23 Mile Creek, Fairfield, Beaver Dam, Reedy Branch, Cuffee Town, Unity, Providence, Sherril's Creek, Bethsalem, Richmond Church, Smyrna. | |
| William C. Davis, | | |
| Robert McCulloch. | | |

PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA.

| *Ministers.* | *Congregations.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|
| David Rice. | No returns of the name of the Congregations. | |
| Thomas Craighead. | | |
| Adam Rankin. | | |
| Andrew McClure. | | |
| James Crawford. | | |
| | Total Amount, | £176 7 10 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Ministers, | 177 |
| Probationers, | 111 |
| Congregations supplied with Ministers, | 215 |
| Vacant Congregations, | 204 |

N. B. The Congregations under the care of Transylvania Presbytery are not included.

## 1790.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 20*th*, 1790.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, according to adjournment, in the First Presbyterian Church, in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, Dr. John Rodgers, from Acts xi. chap., 24th verse—"For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."

*Post preces*, Ordered, That the commissions be delivered to the Clerk, who is ordered to make a list of the commissioners, to be presented in the afternoon.

Adjourned, to meet in the Second Presbyterian Church, at half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met, according to adjournment, in the Second Presbyterian Church; *U. P. P.*, the Clerk delivered in the following list of commissioners; whose commissions being produced, they took their seats accordingly.

1. PRESBYTERY OF SUFFOLK—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.
2. PRESBYTERY OF DUTCHESS COUNTY—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.
3. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Dr. John Rodgers, Mr. David Austin. *Elders*—Messrs. Richard Townly, James Carpenter, and Benjamin Stymets.
4. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—Mr. James F. Armstrong, and Mr. William Boyd. *Elders*—Mr. Alexander Chambers, and John Carle, Esq.
5. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Mr. William M. Tennent, and Mr. Ashbel Green. *Elder*—Isaac Snowden, Esq.
6. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Ministers*—Dr. Robert Smith, and Mr. William Smith. *Elder*—Mr. William Brisban.
7. PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.
8. PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—*Ministers*—Dr. Patrick Alison, and Mr. James Muir. *Elders*—None.
9. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Dr. Charles Nesbit, Mr. John King, Mr. John Black, Mr. James Snodgrass. *Elder*—Mr. Samuel Eddy.

10. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—*Minister*—Mr. James Power. *Elders*—None.

11. PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.

12. PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—*Ministers*—Mr. John B. Smith, Mr. Drury Lacy. *Elders*—None.

13. PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.

14. PRESBYTERY OF ABINGTON—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.

15. PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.

16. PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.

The General Assembly then proceeded to the election of a Moderator, and Dr. Robert Smith was chosen; and Messrs. John B. Smith and Ashbel Green were chosen Clerks.

Ordered, That a committee, consisting of a member from each Presbytery present, examine the commissions of the delegates to the Assembly; and that the committee be composed of the following persons, viz:—From the Presbytery of New York, Dr. Rodgers. From the Presbytery of New Brunswick, Mr. Alexander Chambers. From the Presbytery of New Castle, Mr. William Smith. From the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Mr. Isaac Snowden. From the Presbytery of Carlisle, Mr. Eddy. From the Presbytery of Baltimore, Dr. Alison. From the Presbytery of Redstone, Mr. Power. From the Presbytery of Hanover, Mr. Lacy.

Ordered, That this committee bring in their report to-morrow morning.

A Committee of Bills and Overtures, consisting of Mr. Tennent, Mr. Black, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Carpenter, and Mr. Carle, was appointed, to meet to-morrow morning, at 6 o'clock, in the Second Presbyterian Church in this city, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Ordered, That the several Synods make their reports to the Assembly to-morrow morning, and at the same time produce the books containing their minutes for examination.

The General Assembly, on inquiry, found that an order of the last year, appointing that the several Synods enjoin it on all the Presbyteries to be particularly careful and attentive in sending their commissioners to this body, was executed by the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and by the Synod of Philadelphia; that the Synod of Virginia did not execute said order, on account of its not having reached them. No members from the Synod of the Carolinas being present, no inquiry could be made, nor information obtained, from that quarter. But as there is a visible and melancholy neglect in regard to the subject of the said order, the Assembly do hereby renew it, and enjoin on all the Synods to recommend it, in the most forcible manner, to the Presbyteries, to endeavour to procure a full and punctual representation in this body, as an invaluable privilege to themselves, and a measure intimately connected with the prosperity and dignity of the Presbyterian Church.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Dr. Alison and Mr. Eddy be a committee to examine the accounts of Isaac Snowden, Esq., Treasurer of the General Assembly, and report as soon as convenient.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 21*st*, 1790, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, agreeably to adjournment, *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

Mr. Nathan Ker, minister, and Mr. Reuben Hopkins, elder, commissioners from the Presbytery of New York; Mr. John Hanna, minister, a commissioner from the Presbytery of New Brunswick; Mr. James Irwin, elder, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Baltimore; and Mr. Archibald Erwin, elder, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Carlisle, have now come; and having produced their commissions to the committee appointed to examine them, and sustained their reasons for not attending sooner, they took their seats in the Assembly.

The Synods not being prepared to make their reports at the present meeting of the Assembly, by reason of some unforeseen difficulties, were directed to be particularly careful to prepare and bring them forward at the next meeting of this body. And it is recommended to the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas, to send attested copies of their minutes, by their delegates to the General Assembly, yearly, whenever they find it inconvenient to send their books.

The committee appointed to examine the commissions of the delegates to this Assembly reported, That they judge the whole of said commissions to be satisfactory.

The committee appointed at the last meeting of the General Assembly, to confer with delegates from "the Associate Reformed and the Reformed Protestant Dutch Synods," were not prepared to report; but the Assembly having received sufficient information that there is an adjourned meeting of the delegates of the aforesaid convention, did renew their appointment of the last year, and continue the persons there mentioned, as a committee for the purposes intended by the convention.

Dr. Alison and Mr. King were appointed to examine the Synod-book of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, to make report to-morrow morning: and Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Armstrong were appointed a committee to examine the Synod-book of the Synod of Philadelphia, to report at the same time.

Ordered, That Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Muir, Mr. John B. Smith, ministers, and Mr. Hopkins, elder, be a committee to select such parts of the proceedings of the General Assembly as they may think proper, and that they have five hundred copies published, and a suitable number forwarded to each Synod and Presbytery under the care of the General Assembly: and that they be authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the amount of the expenses arising from the execution of this order.

Agreeably to an order of the General Assembly, at their sessions of last year, the Synod of New York and New Jersey recommended the Rev. Messrs. Nathan Ker and Joshua Hart as missionaries to preach on the frontiers of our country; and for other purposes mentioned in the order referred to. The Assembly approved of the nomination of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and agreed to appoint them as missionaries from this body. It appeared to the General Assembly that the Synod of Philadelphia recommended the Rev. Dr. George Duffield, to fulfil the purposes of the mission before mentioned, but that since his appointment he has been removed by death. The Synod of Virginia, not having an account of the proceedings of the General Assembly, did not recommend missionaries, according to the order of the Assembly, but substantially complied with the design of that mission, by an arrangement of their own at their last meeting. Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Alison, Mr. Ker, Mr. Hanna, and Mr. Chambers, were appointed a committee to prepare certain directions necessary for the missionaries of the Assembly, in fulfilling the design of their mission, and to specify the compensation that it will be proper to make them for their services, and to make report to-morrow morning.

On motion, It was agreed that inquiry should be made of the respective Presbyteries, whether they complied with the order of the Assembly, at their last meeting, for raising contributions to support the missions: whereupon, the Presbyteries of New York, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, and Baltimore, severally reported, that they complied with the order in question. The Presbyteries of Redstone and Hanover reported, that they had not received any recommendation upon the subject, as the proceedings of the last Assembly did not reach the Synod to which they belong.

Whereas, it appears that some of the congregations under the care of this Assembly, though duly informed of the injunction made at our last sessions respecting the raising of contributions for the support of missionaries to the frontiers of the country, have not complied with the same; the Assembly therefore thought proper to continue the above-mentioned order; and do hereby enjoin it on all the Presbyteries to give particular attention that every congregation raise the specified contribution; and that all the contributions be sent forward, as soon as possible, to the Treasurer of the General Assembly.

The committee appointed to present the address of the General Assembly to the President of the United States, reported, that they presented the said address, agreeably to the order of last year, and received from the President the following answer, viz:

"*To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.*

"Gentlemen,—I received with great sensibility the testimonial given by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, of the lively and unfeigned pleasure experienced by them on my appointment to the first office in the nation.

"Although it will be my endeavour to avoid being elated by the too favourable opinion which your kindness for me may have induced you to express of the importance of my former conduct, and the effect of my future services; yet, conscious of the disinterestedness of my motives, it is not necessary for me to conceal the satisfaction I have felt upon finding that my compliance with the call of my country, and my dependence on the assistance of heaven to support me in my arduous undertaking, have, so far as I can learn, met the universal approbation of my countrymen. While I reiterate the professions of my dependence upon heaven as the source of all public and private blessings, I will observe, that the general prevalence of piety, philanthropy, honesty, industry, and economy, seems, in the ordinary course of human affairs, particularly necessary for advancing and confirming the happiness of our country. While all men within our territories are protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of their consciences, it is rationally to be expected from them in return, that they will all be emulous of evincing the sincerity of their professions by the innocence of their lives and the benevolence of their actions. For no man who is profligate in his morals, or a bad member of the civil community, can possibly be a true Christian, or a credit to his own religious society.

"I desire you to accept my acknowledgments for your laudable endeavours to render men sober, honest, and good citizens, and the obedient subjects of a lawful government; as well as for your prayers to Almighty God for his blessings on our common country, and the humble instrument which he has been pleased to make use of in the administration of its government.

"George Washington."

The committe appointed to superintend the printing of the constitution, &c., were ordered to deliver in a report of their proceedings as soon as it can be prepared.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday, May* 21*st*, 1790—3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met, agreeably to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

A letter was received and read from the Rev. David Rice, a member of the Presbytery of Transylvania, written by order of that Presbytery, containing an account of the church under their care.

The General Assembly then proceeded to the choice of a Stated Clerk, in the room of Dr. George Duffield, deceased, when the Rev. Ashbel Green was elected into that office.

The following question was proposed by the Committee of Overtures, viz: "Ought such persons to be re-baptized, as have been offered in baptism by notoriously profligate parents, and baptized by ministers of the same description?" On motion,

*Resolved*, That the consideration of the above question be postponed till to-morrow.

Ordered, That the incidental expenses of the Assembly be paid out of the funds in the hands of the Treasurer.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey, having requested of the General Assembly an explication of a clause in our book of discipline, in the chapter of censures, section 15th; the Assembly determined, that the article is in itself plain and explicit; and that whenever it shall be thought proper, by any church, to proceed to the sentence of the higher excommunication, and apply to Presbytery for their concurrence, agreeably to our constitution, the Presbytery certainly will not give any decision in the case, until the object of censure be regularly cited to appear, that he may have an opportunity of availing himself of the right of appeal.

Mr. Carle, a commissioner from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, obtained leave of absence from the Assembly.

A representation was offered from the Presbytery of Baltimore to the General Assembly, containing certain remarks, "respecting alterations made in the Confession of Faith, and the ratification of the said confession and form of discipline and government, and also the amendment of the Larger Catechism, with the subsequent adoption of the Larger and Shorter Catechisms;" containing also certain resolutions on the subject, and requesting by their commissioners, that this representation should be entered on the minutes of the Assembly, or recorded in an appendix. After some conversation on the subject of this memorial or representation, it was ordered to lie on the table for the inspection of the members.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d*, 1790—9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

Mr. John Pinkerton, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, has now come, and having produced his commission to the committee appointed to examine commissions, and his reasons for not attending sooner being sustained, he took his seat.

On motion, it was

*Resolved*, That the recommendation of the General Assembly of last year to the different Presbyteries, to encourage an accurate impression of the holy Scriptures, now making by Mr. Isaac Collins, of the state of New Jersey, be continued; and that it be recommended to every individual of this Assembly to promote and encourage this business in the Presbytery to which he belongs.

The Committee of Missions, appointed yesterday, brought in their report, which was read and approved, and is as follows, viz:

"The Rev. Messrs. Nathan Ker and Joshua Hart were appointed missionaries, on the frontier settlements of New York and Pennsylvania, to the west branch of the Susquehanna, for at least three months, from an early day in June; to preach the gospel, administer other ordinances, organize churches, ordain elders, collect every useful information they can about the religious state of those parts, and lay before the Assembly the result of their inquiries respecting the most effectual means of establishing a gospel ministry among the people; together with the probable proportion of the different denominations, and the number of our vacancies, carefully distinguishing those who are able and willing to support a minister from such as are of a different description. It was at the same time

"Ordered, That the Treasurer advance to the missionaries fifty dollars each; and agreed, that they shall receive, for their services one hundred dollars each, including what may be received by them on their tour and the sum advanced before their departure, and of this they are to render an account at their return."

No other ministers having been recommended for the same employment, likely to fulfil it, the Assembly renewed the order of the last year on this subject to the Synods; with an addition, to apply to the several Presbyteries under their care, to nominate suitable persons, who may be sent among our frontier vacancies as missionaries; and to transmit their opinions, from time to time, on the most promising methods of advancing the great end in view; and that Presbyteries be informed that collections have been received to assist in defraying their necessary expenses.

Dr. Sproat, of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and Dr. Smith, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, being present and invited to sit as corresponding members, took their seats accordingly.

The committee for examining the Treasurer's accounts brought in their report, which was read and approved, and is as follows, viz:

"The committee report, that they have examined the Treasurer's accounts, which appear by sufficient vouchers to be fairly and properly kept; that there remains in his hands, and due from him to the general fund, a balance of fifty-two pounds, twelve shillings, and nine pence, *paper money;* and one pound, one shilling, and five pence, *specie;* and that he has received, for the purpose of supporting missions, eighty pounds, twelve shillings, and ten pence. Which is submitted.

PATRICK ALISON,
SAMUEL EDIE."

The minutes of the Synod of New York and New Jersey were revised, by the committee appointed for the purpose, to page 17; and after a few amendments made, were approved.

The minutes of the Synod of Philadelphia, not having been fully transcribed, the committee appointed to examine them, could not make their expected report.

The question proposed by the Committee of Overtures, respecting baptism, was resumed, and after a very considerable and serious discussion of the subject, it was agreed to postpone the decision of it till Monday.

Adjourned, till Monday morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday, May 24th,* 1790—9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

The question proposed by the Committee of Overtures, respecting baptism, was resumed; and after a full investigation of the subject, the following determination was adopted, viz:

*Resolved,* That it is a principle of this Church, that the unworthiness of the ministers of the gospel does not invalidate the ordinances of religion dispensed by them. It is also a principle, that as long as any denomination of christians is acknowledged by us a church of Christ, we ought to hold the ordinances dispensed by it as valid, notwithstanding the unworthiness of particular ministers. Yet inasmuch as no general rule can be made to embrace all circumstances, there may be irregularities in particular administrations, by men not yet divested of their office, either in this or in other churches, which may render them null and void. But as these irregularities must often result from circumstances and situations, that cannot be anticipated and pointed out in the rule, they must be left to be judged of by the prudence and wisdom of church sessions, and the higher judicatories to which they may be referred. In such cases, it may be advisable to administer the ordinance of baptism in a regular manner, where a profane exhibition of the ceremony may have been attempted. These cases and circumstances, however, are to be inquired into by the church sessions, and referred to a Presbytery, before a final decision.

The representation from the Presbytery of Baltimore was attended to; and, after some debate, the further consideration of it was deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th*, 1790—3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

An overture was made, proposing certain alterations in the present constitution of the General Assembly, which, after a discussion of some length, was rejected.

The representation of the Presbytery of Baltimore was again taken into consideration; and, after reading it once, a further attention to the subject was postponed, till to-morrow morning.

It was agreed that the following postscript should be added to the circular letter of last year, viz:

P. S.—The General Assembly, finding that their letter which was prepared last year has not been sufficiently circulated, and judging it to contain matter of the highest importance,

Ordered, That it be reprinted, and a copy of it sent, not only to every Synod and Presbytery, but to every individual minister in our connection; at the same time recommending it in the most earnest manner to their serious attention.

Ordered, That Mr. Austin agree with some person to reprint two hundred copies of the said circular letter with the postscript annexed, and distribute these copies amongst the members under the jurisdiction of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th*, 1790—9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

The consideration of the representation from the Presbytery of Baltimore was resumed; and having heard the commissioners from that Presbytery fully upon the subject, on the question, Shall the prayer of that Presbytery be granted to have the said representation entered into an appendix to our minutes, or not? the votes were equal, and the Moderator gave the decisive voice in the negative.

The following case from the session of Mount-Sion church, in Fayette county, Kentucky, was referred to the Assembly for counsel, viz: "Respecting a married man who left Ireland a number of years ago, leaving his family behind him, with hopes of providing better for them in this country. He afterwards returned to Ireland three sundry times, with an intention of bringing in his family. But by no arguments could his wife be persuaded to come with him; and the last time peremptorily refused all farther cohabitation. He afterwards returned, and remained in single life ten years in this country. He is since married, and has children in second marriage: his wife and he are desiring communion. The Assembly's judgment is hereby humbly requested how, or whether, such persons, or any of them, can be admitted to the communion of the church.

From Mount-Sion Session, in Kentucky.

By appointment, ADAM RANKIN, *Moderator*."

10*th April*, 1790.

The consideration of this case was deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 25*th*, 1790—3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

Mr. Austin reported that he fulfilled the commission which the Assembly appointed him to execute, respecting the circular letter to Synods and Presbyteries. The expense of printing, which was three dollars, was directed to be defrayed out of the general fund in the hands of the Treasurer.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the case referred from the Session of Mount-Sion, in Kentucky, for counsel; and after some time spent in deliberation on the subject, were of opinion, that a man in circumstances such as the case has stated, ought not to be admitted to the privileges of the church. But, in order to give as much information as possible to the Session of Mount-Sion, the Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith was requested to prepare a draught of a letter to that Session, stating the reasons on which the above opinion is founded; who, after some time, reported the following, which was agreed to, viz:

"*The General Assembly to the Session of Mount-Sion Church.*

On the subject of your application to this judicatory, relative to a man who has married a second wife while his first is yet living, without having obtained a legal divorce from her, the Assembly, from the view of the facts as stated in the written application of the Session, have judged that this man ought not to be admitted to the privileges of the church; because, although wilful and obstinate desertion is a legal cause of divorce, yet it does not appear that this man has actually been divorced from his wife; and it is improper and dangerous to receive to church communion such persons as in the eye of the civil law are living in vice. And although a good man may sometimes be oppressed by power, and prevented from obtaining a divorce where sufficient causes exist, yet it does not appear from your representation that he has used the proper means to obtain a legal divorce, nor even to authenticate the facts upon which he founds his application for the privileges of the church by sufficient evidence from Ireland—the place in which they happened, and where alone they can be substantiated; and it is contrary to all just rules of proceeding to take any evidence or representation *ex parte*. But, the decision of the Assembly notwithstanding, if it shall appear that this man has separated from his wife by her wilful and obstinate desertion, and that he has taken all just means to obtain a divorce to which he was lawfully entitled, but was prevented and oppressed by the power of antagonists or of unjust courts; and if he shall moreover produce such evidence of these facts, from the place in which they happened, as would entitle him to a divorce by the laws of this land and of this church, then, in that case, it is the opinion of the General Assembly that such man, behaving himself otherwise as a good Christian, may be admitted to church privileges. But, in such case, it is necessary that the most authentic evidence be required, and great caution used, both that the proceedings of the church may not be inconsistent with the civil law, and that a door be not opened to laxness, on this important subject of morals.

Signed by order of the General Assembly,

ROBERT SMITH, *Moderator.*

*Philadelphia, May 26th,* 1790."

The following resolution was moved, and unanimously agreed to, viz:

Whereas there existed, before the late Revolution, an annual convention of the clergy of the Congregational Churches in New England, and of ministers belonging to the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, which was interrupted by the disorders occasioned by the war: this Assembly, being peculiarly desirous to renew and strengthen every bond of union between brethren so nearly agreed in doctrine and forms of worship as the members of the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches evidently are, and remembering with much satisfaction the mutual pleasure and advantage produced and received by their former intercourse, did

*Resolve,* That the ministers of the Congregational Churches of New England, be invited to renew their annual convention with the clergy of the Presbyterian Church. And the Assembly did, for this purpose, appoint the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, of New York, and the Rev. Dr. McWhorter, of Newark, in New Jersey, to be a committee, to take such measures for the obtaining of the proposed object as they may judge to be most effectual; and to report their proceedings to the General Assembly, at their next meeting.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay to Mr. Peter Leslie two pounds, for attendance and other expenses, during the present sessions.

Adjourned, to meet in the Second Presbyterian church, in this city, on the third Wednesday in May, 1791, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

## 1791.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 18*th*, 1791.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to adjournment, in the Second Presbyterian church, in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, Dr. Robert Smith, from Isaiah lxii. 5, 6: "I have set watchmen on thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night; ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence; and give him no rest, till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

*Post preces,*

Ordered, That the commissions be delivered to the Clerk, who is directed to prepare a list of the commissioners, and to lay it before the Assembly this afternoon.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 18*th*, 4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met, agreeably to adjournment; *U. P. P.* The Clerk delivered in the following list of commissioners, taken from the commissions, which have been put into his hands for that purpose, viz:

1. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—*Ministers*—Messrs. George Faitoute and Joshua Hart. *Elder*—Mr. John Hulbert.

2. PRESBYTERY OF DUTCHESS—*Ministers*—Mr. John Davenport. *Elders*—None.

3. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Nathan Ker, and Jacob Van Artsdalen. *Elder*—Dr. Jonathan Sweazy.

4. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—*Minister*—Mr. William Schenck. *Elder*—Dr. Hunloke Woodruff.

5. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—Mr. John Woodhull, and Dr. Samuel S. Smith. *Elders*—Dr. Scott, and Nehemiah Dunham, Esq.

6. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Messrs. Nathaniel Irwin, Andrew Hunter, and James Boyd. *Elders*—Maskel Ewing, Elijah Clark, and Isaac Snowden, Esqs.

7. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Ministers*—Dr. Robert Smith, Messrs. John McCreary, and Thomas Read. *Elders*—Messrs. Robert Wallace, John Fleming, and —— Naudain.

8. PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—*Minister*—Mr. Jacob Ker. *Elder*—Mr. James Polk.

9. PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.

10. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Dr. Charles Nesbit, Messrs. Cooper, Lang, Craighead, and Henderson. *Elders*—Messrs. David Hoge, and Benjamin Blythe.

11. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—*Ministers*—Messrs. Finley, McMillan, and Dunlap. *Elders*—None.

12. PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—*Ministers*—Messrs. John B. Smith, and John D. Blair. *Elders*—None.

13. PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—*Ministers*—Messrs. Moses Hoge, and William Graham. *Elder*—Mr. Archibald Alexander.

14. PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—*Minister*—Mr. James Hall. *Elders*—None.

15. PRESBYTERY OF ABINGTON—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.

16. PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—*Minister*—Mr. Templeton. *Elders*—None.

17. PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—*Ministers*—None. *Elders*—None.

The General Assembly then proceeded to the election of their Moderator and Clerks for the ensuing sessions; when the Rev. John Woodhull was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Messrs. John B. Smith and Andrew Hunter were chosen Clerks.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last General Assembly be read.

Messrs. Faitoute, Smith, N. Ker, Snowden, Henderson, Blair, Hoge, Hall, Polk, and Schenck, were appointed a committee to examine the commissions of the members of the General Assembly, and to report to-morrow morning.

Messrs. McCreary, Hall, Graham, Henderson, Faitoute, Ewing, Craighead, Blair, and Van Artsdalen, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet at this place to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock; and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Ordered, That the Synodical reports be brought in to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

The Rev. Ashbel Green being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member, and took his seat accordingly.

Adjourned, till to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 19th,—9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment: *P. P. S. Q. S.*

Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Finley, Mr. Craighead, Mr. Lang, and Mr. J. Ker, ministers; and Mr. Fleming, elder, appeared as commissioners; and their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats.

Mr. Austin from the New York Presbytery, and Mr. Ely from the Associate Congregational churches of Connecticut, being present, were invited to sit as corresponding members.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

The Assembly having proceeded to business without attending sufficiently to the order prescribed in the constitution respecting the commissions of the members; and having been led into that inattention by precedents in the former sessions of the General Assembly, it was thought necessary to declare, that the business ought not in future to be entered upon by the Assembly, until the commissions delivered in to the Clerk shall have been publicly read, according to the express letter of the constitution.

The committee appointed to examine the commissions of the members, reported, that they have examined those commissions, and have found them substantially according to form.

Dr. Robert Smith and Dr. McWhorter were appointed a committee to examine the rules of the house; and to add to them, if they shall judge it necessary, a rule directing the method in which a Moderator, after his election, shall be introduced to his office, and report to-morrow morning.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey made their report, which is as follows, viz:

"The Synod of New York and New Jersey report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, agreeably to their direction, in a letter dated May 25th, A. D., 1789, that the Synod consists of four Presbyteries, viz: Suffolk, Dutchess, New York, and New Brunswick.

1. Suffolk Presbytery consists of twelve ministers, five of whom have pastoral charges, and seven have not charges. They have one licentiate, five vacant congregations, each able to support a minister, as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 1.

2. Dutchess Presbytery consists of six ministers, all of whom have pastoral charges. They have one licentiate. One of their members has joined the Anabaptists. They have four vacant congregations, able to support two ministers, as appears by their report to Synod, No. 2.

3. New York Presbytery consists of twenty-seven ministers; twenty-four of whom have pastoral charges, and three have not charges. They have four licentiates. One member has been removed by death; one member has been dismissed to join the Presbytery of Baltimore. They have eight vacancies, each able to support a minister, and nine not yet able, as appears by their report to Synod, No. 3.

4. New Brunswick Presbytery consists of fourteen ministers, thirteen of whom have charges, and one has not. They have one licentiate. One member has been removed by death. They have three vacancies, each able to support a minister, and six not able, as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 4."

On hearing the above report, and observing that it takes no notice of the Presbyteries of Albany and Long Island, which, from their local situation, it was judged must fall within the bounds of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and from which the Assembly have admitted delegates, an inquiry was made in regard to this seeming irregularity, and the Assembly were informed, that the Presbyteries of Albany and Long Island were constituted by the Synod of New York and New Jersey at their last sessions, after their report to the General Assembly was prepared. Whereupon, the Assembly

Ordered, That the Synods be particularly careful that their reports be full and explicit to the end of their sessions next preceding the meeting of that Assembly to which they are to be made.

The Synod of Virginia did not bring in any report.

The Synod of the Carolinas made their report, which is as follows, viz:

"*To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, at the Session in May,* 1791.

Rev. Fathers and Brethren,—The Synod of the Carolinas beg leave to express their grateful sense of the care and attention of the General Assembly in their address, dated 1789. It has given us no small degree of anxiety that distance and other circumstances have rendered it so inconvenient for our several Presbyteries to send up a more full and respectable representation to our supreme judicatory. We have earnestly recommended this important matter to our Presbyteries, and hope the time is coming when a regular and stated attendance will be more convenient. In the meantime, in compliance with your order, we have directed our Synod book to be prepared and sent on, together with the following return of our Presbyteries, members, licentiates, &c. See Nos. 1, 2.

Signed by order,

HEZEKIAH BALCH, *Moderator.*

*Bethany, October* 12*th*, 1790."

It appeared that the several Synods complied with the recommendation of the General Assembly at their last sessions, to enjoin upon the Presbyteries within their bounds, to be punctual in sending commissioners to represent them in General Assembly.

Messrs. Cooper, Templeton, and Blair, were appointed a committee to examine the minutes of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and report as soon as convenient.

Messrs. N. Ker, M. Hoge, and Alexander, were appointed a committee to examine the minutes of the Synod of Philadelphia, and report as soon as convenient.

Messrs. Chapman, Irwin, and Graham, were appointed a committee to examine an attested copy of the minutes of the Synod of the Carolinas.

Messrs. J. Ker, Polk, and Clark, were appointed a committee to examine the accounts of Mr. Isaac Snowden, Treasurer of the General Assembly, and to make report as soon as convenient.

It appeared, on inquiry, that all the Presbyteries represented in the present Assembly, have complied with the injunction of the General Assembly respecting contributions for the support of missionaries to the frontiers, except the Presbytery of Lewes, which had not sufficient and timely information concerning said injunction.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met, according to adjournment: *P. P. S. Q. S.*

Mr. Joshua Hart, Mr. John McMillan, ministers; and Mr. Benjamin Blythe, elder, appeared as commissioners, and their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats. The Rev. Mr. Armstrong, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member, and took his seat accordingly.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

Agreeably to the appointment of the General Assembly, last year, directing Dr. Rodgers and Dr. McWhorter to correspond with the Congregational Churches in Connecticut, in order to renew and strengthen the bonds of union between those churches and the Presbyterian Church in America, Dr. McWhorter reports:

"That some progress has been made in opening a plan of correspondence with said churches. That three modes of correspondence are proposed for consideration, viz: (1.) By letter, from a committee of this body with a committee of the General Association of Connecticut. (2.) By reviving a Convention similar to that which subsisted between those bodies before the late war. (3.) By sending delegates, reciprocally from each body, who shall sit in their respective meetings, to answer the important purpose designed by this correspondence."

On motion, *Resolved*, That to carry into effect the proposed plan for a correspondence with the Congregational Churches in New England, a committee, consisting of Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Rodgers, Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Chapman, Dr. Samuel S. Smith, Mr. Tennent, and Mr. Austin, or any three of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed, to meet at New Haven, on the second Wednesday in September next, to consult with such ministers from the New England Churches as may be there present, on the subject in contemplation, and to determine on such plan of correspondence and intercourse as shall appear eligible. And that the prospect of accomplishing the desire of the General Assembly in this appointment may be the more favourable, Dr. McWhorter is hereby directed to write immediately to Dr. Timothy Dwight, of Connecticut, and inform him of this measure; requesting him, at the same time, to lay it before the General Association of Connecticut, that they may be prepared to meet at the time above mentioned, and do what they may think expedient in this concern.

Ordered, That Messrs. N. Ker, John Smith, and Ashbel Green, ministers; and Mr. Isaac Snowden, elder, be a committee to select such parts of the proceedings of the General Assembly as they may think proper; and that they have fifteen hundred copies printed, and a suitable number forwarded to each Synod and Presbytery under the care of the General Assembly; and that they be authorized to draw on the treasury for the amount of the expenses arising from the execution of this order. It was also

Ordered, That the same committee prepare and report to this house, as soon as possible, an address to the churches under their care.

The committee appointed last year to superintend the printing and dispersing of the Confession of Faith and Constitution of this Church, reported,

That by the death of Dr. Duffield, one of the members of said committee, and who had the management of the business principally in his hands, they have been much embarrassed in their endeavours to settle it; that it is not yet brought to a close; and that, in their opinion, it would contribute to an accurate and final settlement if the General Assembly would direct the Presbyteries present, to give such information, in regard to the number of the books which they have severally received, as may be in their power.

Whereupon, Ordered, That such information be now given; which was accordingly done, and the committee directed to make, if possible, a final report to the General Assembly of next year.

Ordered, That the incidental charges arising at the present sessions of the General Assembly be paid out of their treasury.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, according to adjournment; *P. P. S. Q. S.*

Mr. John Davenport, minister, from the Presbytery of Dutchess, Mr. John Hulbert, elder, from the Presbytery of Long Island, and Mr. Samuel Tyler, from the Presbytery of New York, appeared as commissioners, and their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

The committee appointed to examine the rules of the house, and to add to them, if they should judge it necessary, a rule, directing the method in which a Moderator, after his election, shall be introduced to his office, made their report; which was agreed to, and is as follows:

"Your committee report, that when a new Moderator hath been elected, before he take the chair, the former Moderator shall address him and the house, in the following or like manner, viz:

"Sir,—It is my duty to inform you, and announce to this house, that you are duly elected to the office of Moderator in this General Assembly. For your direction in office, and for the direction of this Assembly in all your deliberations, before I leave this seat, I am to read to you and this house the rules contained in the records of this Assembly, which I doubt not will be carefully observed by both, in conducting the business that may come before you.

[Here the Moderator is to read the rules, and afterwards add]

"Now, having read these rules, according to order, for your instruction as Moderator, and for the direction of all the members in the management of business, praying that Almighty God may direct and bless all the deliberations of this Assembly for the glory of his name, and for the edification and comfort of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, I resign my place and office as Moderator."

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk extract from the records of this house a fair copy of the rules for conducting the business thereof, and at every stated meeting have it exposed in a public part of the house that all the members may have access to it for their information.

The Synod of Philadelphia made no report. But a member of that Synod stated to the house, that repeated and pressing applications had been made by the Synod to their several Presbyteries, to attend the sessions of Synod, and make their reports; but that they have never yet been able to obtain a representation from all their Presbyteries, nor reports from them, so as to enable the Synod to make their report to this Assembly. Whereupon, the General Assembly declared, that though the Synod might have endeavoured to obtain a full report from its Presbyteries, yet the Synod was culpable in not making their report as far as it could have been done; and in not stating, as a body, to this Assembly the difficulties which prevented them from being more full and explicit. The General Assembly, therefore, exhort the Synod of Philadelphia to endeavour to bring in an accurate report at the next meeting of this body. And they, moreover, express their grief and disapprobation at the conduct of the Presbyteries, in not bringing forward to this Assembly duplicates of their reports to their Synod, agreeably to a known order; and the Assembly does hereby entreat those Presbyteries to prevent the necessity of particular rebuke by a more orderly conduct.

The missionaries appointed by the last General Assembly to visit the frontiers, proceeded some length in giving in their report, the consideration of which was deferred till the afternoon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Three o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *P. P. S. Q. S.*

The Rev. Thomas Read appeared in this General Assembly, and requested to be admitted as a member duly commissioned from the Presbytery of New Castle, to represent said Presbytery, as a substitute, in the room of the Rev. Thomas Smith, in case he could not attend. The said Mr. Smith by reason of sickness could not attend. The written commission of the aforesaid Mr. Read was not produced by him, as he expected the clerk of the said Presbytery was in this city to furnish him with his commission in due form; but the clerk was gone from this city before this matter came before the house. Dr. R. Smith and Mr. McCreary were produced as witnesses to prove the above facts. They did solemnly testify that Mr. Read was formally appointed and commissioned by the said Presbytery. The question being then moved and put: Whether Mr. Read should be admitted as a member of this Assembly or not, upon the testimony of the witnesses before them? the vote being taken, it was carried, by a great majority, that the said Mr. Read should be admitted, and he was admitted accordingly. In like manner, Mr. Elias Naudain, an elder, commissioned by the above Presbytery as a substitute, whose written commission was not produced for similar reasons, but in regard to whom it was testified by Mr. Read and Dr. Smith, that he was duly appointed and commissioned, requested to be admitted to a seat in the Assembly: and the question being put, Whether, upon the testimony of these witnesses, the said elder should be admitted as a member or not? it was carried, by a great majority, that he should be admitted, and he was accordingly admitted as a member.

Dr. Ewing, being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member, and he took his seat accordingly.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

The Rev. Joseph Clark obtained leave of absence from the future sessions of this Assembly.

Mr. Daniel Jones, a member of the Presbytery of Carlisle, being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member, and he took his seat accordingly.

The Assembly resumed the hearing of the report of their missionaries. The General Assembly last year having recommended to the several Synods to nominate missionaries, for the purpose expressed in their minutes upon the subject of missions, to the settlements on the frontiers, on inquiry it was found: That the Synod of New York and New Jersey did nominate Dr. McWhorter and Mr. Aaron Condict, a probationer under the care of New York Presbytery, as proper persons to be employed as missionaries by the Assembly: That the Synod of Philadelphia recommended to the Presbyteries under their care to nominate missionaries to the present Assembly, and that, in consequence of this, the Presbytery of Philadelphia did nominate the Rev. James Boyd and Mr. Robert Cathcart, a probationer under their care, as proper persons to be employed as missionaries by the Assembly: That the Synod of Virginia had not complied with the said recommendation, but had adopted measures suited to their local situation, to carry into effect the design of the Assembly in the appointment of missionaries, though not exactly in the order prescribed in the minutes of this body; which measures, having been stated in a narrative of the proceedings of the Synod by one of its members, the Assembly were well pleased with them, considered them as useful to the Church, and heartily approved of the zeal and diligence manifested by that body in carrying those measures into effect. They did, moreover, earnestly recommend to the said Synod to persevere in carrying on those measures, which it appears that they have heretofore adopted with so much success. It appeared that the Synod of the Carolinas did not comply with the said recommendation, for the want of due information on the subject, but had also taken some pains to supply the extensive frontier of their country with the preaching of the gospel.

It was suggested to the General Assembly by a member, that Mr. N. Ker, one of the missionaries recommended last year by the Synod of New York and New Jersey, had lost a horse in that service; who also proposed that he should receive some compensation for his loss. On motion, the matter was referred to Mr. Irwin, Mr. McCreary, and Mr. Clark, who were directed to examine into that matter, and report to this house as soon as possible.

Mr. Green presented an account from Robert Aitkin of 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, for a book to contain the minutes of the General Assembly, which had been paid by him. Whereupon,

Ordered, That the Treasurer reimburse the amount of said account to Mr. Green.

Messrs. Craighead, Van Artsdalen, and Polk, were appointed a committee to consider what compensation shall be allowed to the Stated Clerk of this Assembly for his services, and to make report to-morrow morning.

Adjourned, till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 21*st*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

Mr. Craighead, an elder from the Presbytery of Hanover, obtained leave of absence during the future sessions of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts, reported, that they have executed that duty, and that they find that he has sold ninety-four copies of the Confession of Faith for 21*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, and has received sundry collections, amounting to 70*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* That there is a balance of 52*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, Pennsylvania currency, and 118*l.* 7*s.*, specie, in his hands.

The committee appointed to examine the minutes of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, made their report, which was agreed to, and the book was approved to the bottom of the 26th page.

The committee appointed to examine the minutes of the Philadelphia Synod, made their report, the consideration of which was postponed.

Dr. Witherspoon, being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member, and he took his seat accordingly.

It was moved, that the General Assembly take into consideration the peculiar circumstances of the state of the Synod of the Carolinas on the subject of sending missionaries to those places destitute of the gospel, and make such allowance in favour of that Synod, as the Assembly, in their wisdom, may think most convenient; the consideration of which was deferred.

The committee appointed to examine the minutes of the Synod of the Carolinas, made their report, and the book was approved to the end of the sessions in October, 1790.

The committee appointed to determine what compensation should be made to the Stated Clerk for his services, reported, that upon consideration they were of opinion, that this Assembly ought to allow their Stated Clerk, for his services in transcribing the minutes of the Assembly for the years 1789 and 1790, and also for the minutes of the present sessions, the sum of 4*l.* 10*s.* Which report was accepted, and the Treasurer was ordered to pay to the Stated Clerk the sum which is therein mentioned.

The committee appointed to consider what compensation should be made to Mr. Nathan Ker, a missionary from the last General Assembly, for a horse said to be lost by him, in consequence of his missions, reported, that, upon inquiry, they had found that a fatal disorder prevailed among the horses in the country through which the missionary passed; that the symptoms of that disorder appeared in the missionary's horse upon his return, and that, in about ten days after his return, the horse died. On the whole, your committee are of opinion, that the horse was lost in consequence of the mission, and that Mr. Ker should be allowed the sum of fifty dollars, out of the fund appropriated for the support of missions, in consideration of said loss.

Which report was agreed to, and the Treasurer was accordingly ordered to pay to Mr. Ker the above sum of fifty dollars.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures tendered to the General Assembly the following overture, viz:

"A Presbytery having proceeded for some time in the trials of a candidate for the gospel ministry, stops his trials, and he, being also otherwise laid under censure by their direction and under their cognizance, sometime afterwards, without acquittal or recommendation from the Presbytery which had stopped his trials, applies to another Presbytery, from which he obtains licensure to preach. He then applies to a third Presbytery, or others apply for him, for liberty to preach and settle in their bounds. Quere—Ought that third Presbytery to receive him as a regular licentiate, and permit him to preach in their bounds, or any of their vacancies to prosecute a call for him, before he shall have produced an acquittance and recommendation from the Presbytery that had put a stop to his trials, and under whose cognizance he was otherwise censured?"

After mature consideration of the said question, the General Assembly determine that it is fully answered by the existing rules of this body.

The consideration of the report of the committee appointed to examine the minutes of the Synod of Philadelphia was resumed. The report is as follows, viz:

"Your committee observe, in page 24th, that although the Synod were informed, by the Presbytery of New Castle, that a certain Mr. Hindman had put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Donegal for trials, and afterwards, without certificate or dismission, offered himself to, and was received upon trials by, the Presbytery of Lewes; and though in page 34th the Presbytery of New Castle represent—that the said gentleman had been laid under censure by the Presbytery of Donegal, that they had no authentic proof that it was taken off, and that this gentleman had obtained license in opposition to a rule of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, in their minutes of 1764, pages 79 and 80; yet the Synod recommended it to the Presbytery of New Castle to receive and treat this gentleman as a regular candidate without any decision upon the matters referred to them."

Dr. S. S. Smith, being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member, and took his seat accordingly.

Adjourned till Monday at 9 o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday, May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *P. P. S. Q. S.*

The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and the Rev. James Dunlap, of the Presbytery of Redstone, appeared as commissioners, and their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

On reading the minutes of Saturday, respecting the report of the committee for examining the minutes of the Synod of Philadelphia, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That the Synod be informed, that the Assembly disapprove of the proceedings as represented in their records, in recommending a candidate to be received as in full standing before they had given a decision upon the allegations against him.

Mr. Irwin dissented from the above resolution, and begged leave to bring in his reasons and have them disposed of according to the rules of the house, which was granted.

And Dr. Witherspoon and Dr. Nesbit were appointed a committee to answer the said reasons.

The General Assembly taking into consideration the distance of the seat of the Carolinas from the seat of the General Assembly, and especially the peculiar state of the currency of North Carolina,

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Synod of the Carolinas be allowed so to manage the matter of sending missionaries to places destitute of the gospel, and its ordinances as may appear to that Synod most conducive to the interest of religion in their bounds; provided, that the above Synod send annually to this Assembly a particular account of their proceedings on the above subject, with a regular statement of the money that may be collected and disbursed for the support of the above missionaries.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Graham, Mr. Green, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Templeton, be a committee to devise measures for the collecting of materials necessary for a history of the Presbyterian Church in North America, and that they report the same to this house, as soon as possible.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

A case was referred to the General Assembly for counsel, from the Presbytery of New Castle, which is as follows, viz:

"At a meeting of the Presbytery of New Castle, in Wilmington, upon the first Tuesday of January, 1791, and continued by adjournments, the Rev. James McCoy, of Morris county Presbytery, with a commissioner from Queen Ann's congregation, applied to be received as a member of this Presbytery. As Mr. McCoy had been under trials for licensure in the Presbytery of New York, and was licensed and ordained by the Presbytery of Morris, this Presbytery agreed not to receive him as a member, until his case be laid before the General Assembly at their next stated meeting."

The General Assembly, upon considering this case, determined, That neither the Presbytery of New Castle, nor any other Presbytery, ought to receive Mr. McCoy into their connection, until he shall have produced a certificate from the Presbytery of New York of his having given them the satisfaction which his case requires.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Messrs. N. Ker, Irwin, Smith, Graham, Blair, Sweezy, Woodruff, and Alexander, be a committee to prepare and report to this house, as soon as possible, a plan to raise a permanent fund for the support of missionaries, and other purposes of the General Assembly.

The committee appointed to confer with delegates from the Associate Reformed and Reformed Protestant Dutch Synods, were ordered to make their report to the General Assembly in May, 1792.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Tuesday, May 24th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *P. P. S. Q. S.*, except Messrs. Smith, Chapman, and Tyler, who obtained leave of absence during the future sessions of this Assembly.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

The committee appointed to devise measures for the collecting of materials necessary for the history of the Presbyterian Church in America, made their report, as follows, viz:

They approve of the design of collecting materials for a history of the Presbyterian Church; that they have little more to lay before the house except what is contained in the following overture, viz:

"The object is to procure materials for a complete history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States from the beginning. For this purpose the following information will be necessary, viz:—Who were the first ministers in America? from whence they came; the internal and relative state of the churches, where they fixed themselves, and when; the situation of things, so far as it affected the formation and establishment of a Presbyterian church; extracts from royal instructions to Governors in the colonies, relating to ecclesiastical matters; laws of the colonies affecting religious liberty; accounts of prosecutions in consequence of those laws; when each Presbyterian congregation in the United States was first formed, and its particular history from that period to the present time; what congregations have existed which are now extinct, the causes of their extinction; when Presbyteries were first formed in the United States, when Synods, when the General Assembly. If the General Assembly should enjoin upon each of their members to furnish, as particularly as may be, the history of his own church, it is probable that materials may be collected without much difficulty. The sooner it is done the better, as time, accident, and the death of ancient people, will daily destroy some sources of information. The materials might be brought to the next meeting of the General Assembly, and deposited with their Clerk."

Your committee would further subjoin, that the old records of Presbyteries and Synods should, as far as possible, be examined, and that Mr. Hazard should be applied to for leave to inspect his collection of state papers.

Which report was considered and agreed to.

And, upon motion, it was

*Resolved*, That it be enjoined upon each Presbytery, strictly to order their members to procure all the materials for forming a history of the Presbyterian Church in this country in the power of each member, and bring in the same to their Presbytery; and that the Presbyteries forward the said collection of materials to the next General Assembly. And that both Presbyteries and members be careful to conform themselves to the directions contained in a minute, printed in the extracts from the records of this house, on this subject.

On motion, *Resolved*, That in case of an appeal or complaint entered in an inferior judicatory to a superior, if the appellant or appellants do not appear at the first meeting of the superior judicatory, protest may be admitted, at the instance of the respondents, at the last session of such meeting, that the appeal is fallen from, and the sentence so appealed from shall be considered as final.

The Rev. William Smith, of the New Castle Presbytery, being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member, and he took his seat accordingly.

On motion, agreed, That it be a standing rule of the General Assembly, in choosing a Moderator, that any commissioner may nominate a candidate for the chair. The candidates so pointed out shall then, severally, give their votes for some one of their number and withdraw; when the remaining commissioners shall proceed, *viva voce*, to choose, by a plurality of voices, one of the said candidates for Moderator.

On motion, unanimously agreed, That the minutes of the Synod of the Carolinas be recommitted to the committee appointed to examine the said minutes, as their report was given in under an expectation that the minutes relating to the subject of a complaint and appeal, by Abington Presbytery, would be read in the Assembly; which, because the complainants were not present, was judged to be inadmissible. Also, that Dr. Witherspoon be added to said committee; and that they make report of their revision as soon as possible.

Mr. Irwin, Mr. Joseph Clark, and Gilbert Snowden, were appointed a committee to wait upon the Trustees of New Jersey College, at their next meeting, in behalf of this General Assembly, to inquire into the state of the fund appropriated to the education of poor and pious youth, which was deposited in the treasury of that College by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia.

The committee appointed to devise a method to raise a permanent fund for the support of missionaries, and for the other purposes of the General Assembly, made the following report, which was approved and adopted by the Assembly, viz:

"The Committee of Finance beg leave to report, that, in the opinion of your committee, the common expenses of the General Assembly, and of supporting its missionaries, ought to be made a common burden, and equalized as far as possible. That, for this purpose, a general and permanent arrangement ought to be made on this subject; they, therefore, submit the following resolutions, viz:

*Resolved*, 1. That it be enjoined on the several Presbyteries subordinate to this Assembly, that they take effectual measures to collect money annually from all the churches under their jurisdiction, and to forward the same yearly to the Treasurer of the General Assembly, with the name and state of the churches settled and vacant, and the sum received from each.

2. That the several Synods use their endeavours to promote this collection; and that, for this purpose, they annually call the Presbyteries of which they are composed to account, and inquire into their diligence herein. The Presbyteries shall do the like with respect to their members, as often as occasion may require.

3. That the moneys so collected shall be placed in one fund, and appropriated to defraying the incidental expenses of the General Assembly, and the expenses of the commissioners, at a reasonable allowance to each, according to the distance from which he comes; provided that the sum allowed to each commissioner shall not exceed one dollar for every forty miles, in coming to and returning from the Assembly, and half a dollar per day for his expenses during the time he shall attend his duty in the Assembly.

And whereas, this Assembly has it much at heart to supply with the means of eternal life the multitudes who are ready to perish on the frontiers of the United States, and have already adopted temporary expedients for that purpose, and as the demand is likely to be permanent, and should be supplied by permanent funds, therefore,

*Resolved*, 4. That the Synods of Virginia and of the Carolinas continue to prosecute the plans for this purpose, which they have formed, or may form, under the direction and allowance of the General Assembly, and account annually for their conduct, and report their success in this business.

5. That the Presbyteries composing the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and that of Philadelphia, use their best endeavours to forward, yearly, to the general Treasurer, a collection from each of their churches settled and vacant, with an account of the sums received from each, and that those Synods be enjoined to see that the said Presbyteries do their duty in respect to this collection. The fund thence arising to be applied to the support of missionaries to preach the gospel, organize churches, and administer ordinances, on the frontier parts of the United States, and to no other purpose whatever, save that each fund shall be equally charged with the expense of the printing done by order of the General Assembly.

6. This Assembly, presuming on the concurrence of their successors, do resolve, lastly, that there shall be printed annually, or as often as shall be thought expedient, a statement of the receipts and expenditures arising from said collections, in which shall be detailed all the churches settled and vacant, the sum (if any) received from each, for what purpose received, and how applied. And that each Presbytery shall be furnished with at least as many copies as there are churches subordinate thereto, to be transmitted to the churches for their information and satisfaction."

The following overture was made to the General Assembly, viz: "We the subscribers are sorry that we feel ourselves constrained to believe it to be our duty to table a complaint to the General Assembly, against the Presbytery of New Castle, and two of its members in particular, and one of the members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. We are very sensible that the Synod of Philadelphia was the proper place to have preferred this complaint; but to us it was impracticable, because it was our duty to attend our own Synod about the time that the Synod of Philadelphia sat. The grounds of our uneasiness are these: The said Presbytery gave testimonials in due form to a certain Mr. Munro; the said Munro was a man of uncommon infamy. He had been charged before the Presbytery of New Castle with crimes which decency forbids to mention, and had been convicted and suspended from his ministry. Afterward he was restored, and sent with the usual Presbyterial certificate, to labour in the bounds of the Presbytery of New York. This certificate was accompanied with recommendatory letters from Dr. Robert Smith, Mr. Mitchel, and Mr. Peppard. Neither certificate nor letters intimated the least hint of this man as scandalous. We apprehend such measures calculated to impose infamous men upon Presbyteries and people where they are not known, and to destroy all confidence in testimonials and recommendatory letters. With these measures we are aggrieved, and complain to this reverend body.

ALEXANDER McWHORTER,
NATHAN KER.

*Philadelphia, May 24th,* 1791."

Whereupon it was suggested, that this business cannot regularly be taken up by this house; but the members of the Presbytery of New Castle who were present, professing themselves ready to enter on their defence, the Assembly agreed to consider the complaint, so far only as respects the Presbytery of New Castle, and Dr. Robert Smith, one of the individuals. And after some time spent thereon, the consideration of it was postponed till the afternoon.

Adjourned, till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the recommendations of the General Assembly of the years 1789 and 1790, to encourage an accurate impression of the holy Scriptures, making by Mr. Isaac Collins, of the state of New Jersey, be continued; and that it be particularly recommended to every Presbytery, and every individual of this Assembly, to make returns of all subscriptions for this purpose; and that they be particular to signify what number of subscribers may wish to have Ostervald's Notes printed with the Bible; remembering that these notes cannot be printed, consistently with the views of the subscribers among other denominations, otherwise than at the end of the impression. It is also recommended that these returns be made as speedily as possible to Isaac Snowden, Esq., at Philadelphia, Treasurer of the General Assembly; as the impression is nearly finished, and the printer will not be able to proceed to binding until he is informed what number of impressions of Ostervald's Notes may be wanted, especially as these notes must be an additional expense. The subscribers of our denomination alone being desirous to have these notes, the printer has agreed to make 500 impressions at 3*s.* 9*d.*, or 1000 at 2*s.* 6*d.*, each.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the complaint exhibited against the Presbytery of New Castle, and some individual members of this body. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That on the investigation of the subject which gave foundation to the complaint, there appears to have been some matter of grievance on the part of the complainants; yet, all things considered, the General Assembly do find, that there is not sufficient evidence before them to censure either the Presbytery of New Castle, or the individuals referred to in said complaint. But, nevertheless,

*Resolved, 2dly.* That no judicatory or private member shall certify any person's character as good, for a space of time, without mentioning whether he has been under process of scandal during that time, and the issue of it.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment; *P. P. S. Q. S.;* except Dr. Witherspoon, who obtained leave of absence during the future sessions of this Assembly; in whose room Dr. Samuel S. Smith was admitted, according to the appointment of the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

Dr. Moses Scot, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared as a commissioner, and his commission being read and approved, he took his seat accordingly.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

Upon motion it was agreed, That, whereas this Assembly, copying the example of their predecessors, have admitted several ministers, who are not commissioners, to join in their deliberations and conclusions, but not to vote on any question; and although this Assembly has been much indebted to the wise counsels and friendly assistance of these corresponding ministers, nevertheless, on mature deliberation, it was

*Resolved*, As the opinion of this house;

1. That no delegated body has a right to transfer its powers, or any part thereof, unless express provision is in its constitution.

2. That this Assembly is a delegated body, and no such provision is in its constitution.

3. Although such admission has hitherto produced no bad consequences, it may, nevertheless, at some future day, be applied to party purposes, and cause embarrassment and delay: wherefore,

*Resolved*, 4. Lastly, that the practice of this Assembly, in this case, ought not to be used as a precedent in future.

The report of the committee on the minutes of the Synod of the Carolinas was brought in and approved, and is as follows, viz:

"The committee to whom the records of the Synod of the Carolinas were recommitted, beg leave to report: That your committee find that a judgment of the Session of Salem was confirmed by the Presbytery of Abingdon, and brought, by appeal, before the Synod of the Carolinas, who remitted the cause to a a select Session. The sentence of this Session, which appears to your committee to have been irregular, was affirmed by the Synod of the Carolinas, at their sessions in October, 1790. At the same sessions, however, they resumed the cause, and rescinded the decision made by the Synod two days before. Here your committee conceive that the Synod did right, as to matter, but were wrong in point of form; for it does not appear from the minutes that there was more than merely a majority of the members of the Synod for resuming the cause. The Synod next proceeded to consider the appeal, but before they came to a decision a meeting was held by the members of Abingdon Presbytery, then attending on Synod, at which meeting they professed to reverse the former sentence of that Presbytery, and reported the same to Synod, in order to preclude the farther proceedings. Here your committee observe that, in their opinion, the Presbytery had no right to call back the cause, after sentence by them past, and an appeal from it carried up to the superior court. The Synod having agreed that they had a right to proceed, notwithstanding this information, did accordingly proceed, and in a regular way, as your committee conceive, reversed the sentence of the Session of Salem, and declared the appellant restored to the privileges of the church. Upon the whole your committee conceive that the proceedings of that Synod should be sustained, in point of order, by the General Assembly, and their decision confirmed. In that instance in which their proceedings seem to be most contrary to regular discipline, and which is particularly pointed at in the reasons of protest by the members of Abingdon Presbytery, we mean resuming a case during the same session after a decision first had upon it, your committee judge that the first decision was made in a way that was entirely informal, and therefore they had a right to resume the cause and issue it in an orderly and constitutional way; which they have accordingly done; though your committee conceive that this reason should have been assigned on their minutes. All which is submitted:

NATHANIEL IRWIN,
SAMUEL S. SMITH,
WILLIAM GRAHAM."

On motion, agreed, That the missionaries appointed by the Assembly, as well as Mr. Smith and Mr. Graham, on the part of the Synod of Virginia, bring in a written account of the missions, with the success of them, to be printed with the extracts from the minutes of this Assembly.

On motion, it was agreed, That the eighth general rule for conducting the business of the General Assembly be so amended as to read thus: "*When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received unless to amend it, to postpone it, for the previous question, or to adjourn.*"

The following question was brought in and read, viz: If any congregation under the care of this General Assembly desire leave to prepare and present a call to Mr. Hindman, will the Presbytery under whose care he is, be regular in granting such liberty to any of their congregations? In answer to which the General Assembly observe, that as the merits of Mr. Hindman's case and character have never been brought before this body for their decision, they cannot, in consistency with any regular proceeding, determine anything about the case. On the whole, the General Assembly consider Mr. Hindman as occupying the same situation in which he was placed by the Synod of Philadelphia, without being affected in any respect by the proceedings of this Assembly.

In behalf of the missionaries from the Synod of Virginia, Mr. John B. Smith, and Mr. Graham brought in the following report, viz:

"The Synod taking into serious consideration the state of the vacant congregations within their bounds, and viewing with much concern the miserable state of multitudes who have none to break the bread of life amongst them, and are perishing for lack of knowledge; and being affected with the situation of the youth upon whom the hope of the Church seems in future to depend, who are likely to be brought up in ignorance and profanity; desirous to remedy these evils as far as practicable, in dependence on the great Head of the church, have resolved to adopt the following plan:

1. That we will take all proper care to seek for men of knowledge, integrity, and piety, who may travel throughout our bounds as missionaries, to preach the gospel, to catechize and instruct the youth, and to discharge such other parts of ministerial duty as they may be authorized to perform.

2. That there shall be a committee of Synod appointed, consisting of four ministers and four elders, who shall be called the Commission of Synod, to receive the recommendations of such men from the respective Presbyteries, to examine into their credentials and fitness for the discharge of such an office, and who shall give them such directions and instructions as the exigencies of different places, in their wisdom, may require; that they shall meet annually, and oftener if thought necessary; and that any two ministers, and as many elders of the Commission as shall be convened at the place appointed, shall have sufficient power to proceed to business.

3. That it be recommended to the different Presbyteries to raise such contributions as they may be able, in their respective bounds, which shall be put into a general fund for the support of such missionaries.

4. That there shall be a Treasurer appointed, in whose hands the money raised by the different Presbyteries shall be deposited; who shall keep a fair book of accounts, give and take receipts for all money received or paid away by him, and shall make a return to the Commission of the Synod, or to the Synod, as often as may be required; and that he pay out such sums, upon the order of the Commission, to the different missionaries as may be appropriated to them; and all those collections or donations that may be received by the different missionaries from the societies shall be accounted for by the said missionaries to the Commission of Synod.

In consequence of the above arrangement, the Rev. Messrs. William Graham, John B. Smith, James Mitchel, and William Wilson, ministers, and Messrs. Benjamin Rice, Charles Allen, John Lyle, and John Wilson, elders, have been appointed to constitute the Commission of Synod.

Mr. Nash Le Grand, a probationer under the care of the Presbytery of Hanover, was chosen a missionary in April, 1790. He commenced his circuit in the beginning of the following June, and passed through the counties of Bedford, Rockbridge, Botetourt, Montgomery, Augusta, Rockingham, and Frederick, an extent of three or four hundred miles, with a marked success in engaging the attention of the old and young to the concerns of their immortal souls, and in a general attendance on the means of grace, wherever he came.

In October of the same year, the Commission appointed Mr. Robert Marshall, a probationer under the care of Redstone Presbytery, and Messrs. Cary, Allen, and William Hill, probationers under the care of Hanover Presbytery, their missionaries.

These young preachers had two very extensive circuits assigned to them of seven hundred miles. Messrs. Allen and Marshall spent about three months in the valleys between the Allegheny and Apalachian mountains, and three more on each side of the Blue Ridge. In this tour they preached in a great number of counties, and generally to people not formed into religious societies. Mr. Hill had a north-eastern circuit assigned him, in the lower country, near the Chesapeake. He also preached in a great number of counties and several considerable towns.

The missionaries in their tour had the happiness to see the young people in various places uncommonly attentive and affected under their preaching, and in private conversation many of those who were heads of families appeared anxious to encourage the labours of the missionaries at stated periods amongst them. There were several instances of persons awakened to a sense of the guilt and danger of sin, and of formal professors brought to know their mistake. Their circuit was too extensive, and their progress too rapid, to effect any great permanent changes in the external church-state of the people. Yet in a number of places the people or families associated together and made application for further supplies to the Commission. In Henry county, on Smith's river, in Franklin, on Chestnut, in Halifax, Pittsylvania, Amelia, Nottoway, Lunenburgh, Botetourt, and Lancaster counties, the prospect of this sort is the most favourable.

N. B.—The salary allowed the missionaries is two hundred dollars per annum; paid at the expiration of each half year."

Mr. Ker and Mr. Hart, missionaries, appointed last year by the Assembly, made the following report, viz:

"Your missionaries spent three months in the business assigned to them by the Assembly, in the following vacancies, viz: In the state of New York—Middletown, Mama-Cotton, Still-Water, Hebron, Granville, Westfield, King's Bay, Fort Edward, Fort Miller, Palmer-Town, Freehold, New-Galloway, John's-Town, Cherry Valley, Springfield, White's-Town, Fort Schuyler, the Oneida nation of Indians, the Onondagas, the Cayugas, Catharind's-Town, New-Town, Cooper's-Town, at the bottom of Lake Otsego, Unadilla, Clin-Town, Oquaga, Shenang, and Owaga. In Pennsylvania—Tioga, Pitts-Town, King's-Town, Plymouth, Wilksbarre, Hanover, and Lacawany. In most of these places the people are not formed into a church state. In several of them the numbers are very considerable, and in most there appeared a great attention to the preaching of the gospel. Your missionaries were treated with much respect, and in many places they were requested, in the most affectionate manner, to offer the thanks of the people to the General Assembly, for their pious attention in sending missionaries among them; and importunately requested that the favour might be repeated. Your missionaries found in many places serious, well instructed, and apparently pious people; but many of a different character. They baptized a very considerable number of children, and gave advice in sundry places respecting the organization of churches, and the steps necessary to be taken in order to the settlement and support of the gospel ministry. In the northern and western parts of the State of New York, there are great numbers of people, and that number increasing with amazing rapidity. There are but few preachers of any sort, and many of the inhabitants are at a great distance from the regular administration of ordinances. Therefore your missionaries are of opinion, that it will be proper to send out at least one ordained minister as a missionary this year, in order that the hopes of the pious may be raised, the ignorant may be instructed, and that the foundation of gospel churches may be laid in this extensive and growing country, in such a manner that discipline may be exercised regularly therein."

Mr. Irwin, according to the liberty granted him, brought in the reasons for his protest, in which he was joined by Mr. Jacob Ker, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Polk, Mr. Hart, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Read, and Mr. Naudain, which were ordered to be kept on the files of the Assembly.

The committee appointed to answer the said reasons were ordered to send forward their answer to the Stated Clerk, to be also kept in the same manner.

A protest was admitted, in behalf of the Synod of the Carolinas, that an appeal of the Presbytery of Abingdon from a judgment of the said Synod, in October 7th, 1790, in the case of Major Trimble and Mrs. Cosser, was not prosecuted, and was therefore fallen from, and the judgment became final.

Peter Leslie, the Janitor, brought in his account for attendance, &c., of 3*l.* 18*s.* 12½*d.*, which was allowed, and the Treasurer directed to pay the same.

The committee appointed to prepare and report a circular letter, informed the Assembly that they were not prepared to report. Whereupon, agreed, that the said committee proceed to complete said letter, and have it printed with the extracts from our minutes.*

---

* The following circular letter was prepared and inserted in the printed extracts:

*The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to the Churches under their care.*

Dear Friends and Brethren,—By the blessing of a gracious providence, the churches of our communion in America, which were originally few and inconsiderable, have multiplied with a rapid increase, are spread over a wide extent of country, and become respectable as a religious society. But while we recollect with grateful hearts, the indulgent care of the great Head of the church, in granting us such favours, it is our duty to attempt to secure and improve them. He that hath promised to be with his church to the end of the world, and whose faithfulness cheers his people in the most trying scenes, hath enjoined it upon them to be active and industrious in the use of means for promoting his interest amongst men. A spirit of union, piety, and discipline is particularly necessary for this purpose. By this our church was revived, and became flourishing in our fathers' days; by this it hath been cherished to our own times, and by this it must be secured. Union in sentiment, in counsels, and in common efforts amongst the members of the same religious society, have always proved favourable to their enlargement and stability; but without piety and discipline, their progress would be a curse. By an unhappy relaxation in these respects, both in the officers and members of our church, our growing prospects of the increase of the Presbyterian body, and of the promoting of vital christianity, have been, of late, in various places obscured.

We have it to regret, that there is a visible declension in many of the private members of the church, with regard to their attendance on the public means of religion; with regard to their respectful attention to the comfort and encouragement of ministers in the discharge of their important duties, and with regard to the public spirit necessary to give vigour to the measures proposed in particular churches for promoting their secular and spiritual concerns as a body. We cannot but fear, too, that the ministers of our church have contributed to this declension in several instances, by indolence, timidity, and a defect of public spirit in their stations.

But while we lament the languid state of vital piety in our land, and church in general, suffer us to remind you, that this melancholy circumstance should be our most powerful incitement to use every mean and exertion, which the Spirit and providence of God uses to bless, for the prosperity and increase of his church. Let us then repeat, that the prayers of private christians and ministers for the effusion of the divine Spirit, their exemplary lives, their diligent attention to the stated and ordinary means of grace, their union and harmony in supporting and executing the plans which may be devised for the promoting of practical godliness, and regular discipline, will be essentially necessary to the attainment of this important purpose.

Exhorting you therefore in the most earnest manner to these duties, and resting our hopes for success principally on the discharge of them, we would also recommend to your serious attention some measures of a general and public nature, which have been adopted with a view to the advancement of the same great end; and which must receive your hearty concurrence in order to be rendered effectual.

You will see by a statement which accompanies this letter, that we have made provision for the sending of missionaries to the frontiers of our country; you will also see that the effects of these missions in some places have been such as to open a pleasing prospect of advancing the Redeemer's kingdom in the salvation of men, and of sending the light of the gospel to those who have hitherto been involved in the grossest darkness. To carry into effect so noble a design, we cannot doubt that all who have a *supreme* regard to the glory of God and the salvation of their fellow-men, will cheerfully contribute.

Suffer us therefore to urge you, and we do it with the more confidence, as you will at once perceive our disinterested views in the matter, to furnish those annual supplies of money which may be necessary for the common interest of our body; and to give your countenance to the measure in general. The honour of God, the eternal salvation of precious souls, the increase of the society to which you belong, and may we not add, your own peace and comfort, all conspire to prompt you to ardour in this generous un-

The Rev. James Boyd and Mr. Aaron Condict were appointed by the General Assembly to proceed on a mission to the frontier settlements of New York and Pennsylvania, to the west branch of the Susquehanna, for at least three months; commencing their mission as soon as convenient, to preach the gospel and perform the duty prescribed to the missionaries last year; and that they report to the next General Assembly. It was

Ordered, That the Treasurer advance to each missionary fifty dollars, and agreed that they shall receive for their services one hundred dollars each, including the advanced sum of fifty dollars, before mentioned, and whatever sums they may receive during their mission.

Ordered, That the Clerk make out commissions for the above gentlemen, and attest them in proper form.

Adjourned till the third Thursday in May next, to meet in the Presbyterian church at Carlisle. Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1791.

Synod of New York and New Jersey.—Has four Presbyteries.

1. *Presbytery of Suffolk.*—Five ministers settled; seven without charges. One licentiate. Five vacant churches.

2. *Presbytery of Dutchess.*—Six ministers settled. One licentiate. Four churches vacant.

3. *Presbytery of New York.*—Twenty-four ministers settled; three without charges.

---

dertaking. We are ready to anticipate the times, when by exertions similar to these, our holy religion will extend its influence over the vast regions of this western continent, and songs of salvation be heard from its remotest corners; and is it possible, that pious christians, that friends to the best interests of the world, that men of public spirit, should withhold their aid in bringing forward so glorious an event? Whatever others may do, surely all who sincerely love the prosperity of Zion, will cheerfully exert themselves to promote such measures as to your representatives appear calculated to promote her best interests, and the honour of her Lord. Christians! can you look around you, and behold such multitudes of souls, ignorant of that Saviour whom you love, and through whom only they can be saved; ignorant of those truths so important to happiness which you have received, and even perishing for the lack of knowledge, and not be willing to do any thing, to do *every thing* in your power, to rescue them from such a condition?

But permit us, dear brethren, to entreat you to beware of resting in external forms, or the aids which you may charitably devote to strengthen the interest of religion, as if this were to be your principal concern. It would be a melancholy circumstance, if, while you contribute to send the means of light to others, you yourselves should remain in darkness; if, while you are instrumental in bringing others to the knowledge and the love of the Lord Jesus, you should not love him in sincerity.

But what shall we say to the ministers in our communion? Is it necessary to suggest motives to them, to exert themselves with one heart and one soul, to carry into execution the measures which we recommend? We rely with confidence, that they will step forward with alacrity to enforce our applications to the people; yet this is but a part of what is to be expected from the ministers of Jesus Christ. What unanimity in counsels, what purity of manners, what abstractedness from the world, what zeal for the glory of God, and what concern for the salvation of souls ought to mark their character! They are to be guides to the erring; they are to prompt the inactive; they are to suggest the proper public measures for promoting the cause of God, and they are to be examples to the world. Will they not assist the well intended efforts of their brethren by their hearty concurrence, their exhortations, their prayers, their activity in the discharge of their ministerial duties, and their holiness of walk and conversation?

To the patronage of Almighty God we commit the churches of our denomination which we address. "And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Signed by order of the General Assembly,

Ashbel Green, *Stated Clerk of Assembly.*
John B. Smith, *Clerk pro tempore.*

Four licentiates. Eight vacant churches, able to support ministers; nine not able. Rev. Abner Brush died February, 1790.

4. *Presbytery of New Brunswick.*—Thirteen ministers settled; one without charge. One licentiate. Three vacant churches, able to support ministers; six not able. Rev. Thomas Smith died December 23d, 1789.

From the *Presbyteries of Albany and Long Island,* recently organized, no report.

SYNOD OF VIRGINIA.—No report.

SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS.—Has three Presbyteries.

1. *Presbytery of Orange.*—Ten ministers. Six licentiates. Twenty-seven vacancies.
2. *Presbytery of Abingdon.*—Five ministers. Twenty vacant churches.
3. *Presbytery of South Carolina.*

SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA.—No report.

◆

## 1792.

CARLISLE, *May* 17*th*, 1792.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to adjournment, in the Presbyterian church, at Carlisle, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Woodhull, the last year's Moderator, from 2 Tim. iv. 1, 2: "I charge thee, therefore, before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."

Constituted with prayer.

Ordered, That the commissions of the members present be delivered at the Clerk's table, and that the Clerk of the last year's Assembly prepare a list of the commissioners, to be presented in the afternoon.

*Resolved,* That the sexton of this church be door-keeper of the General Assembly, during the sessions of the present Assembly.

Dr. Tilton, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of Lewes, informed the General Assembly that he was appointed a commissioner, on behalf of that Presbytery, to the present Assembly, and had a commission regularly made out, but that he had unfortunately forgotten to bring it with him. The Rev. Mr. Rankin, who was Moderator of the Presbytery when Dr. Tilton received his appointment, having confirmed the fact, he was admitted to a seat, notwithstanding the informality of appearing without a commission.

Adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer.

The Clerk, according to order, produced a list of the commissioners who have deposited their commissions in his hands; when it appeared that there were present:

1. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—None.
2. PRESBYTERY OF DUTCHESS—None.
3. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Messrs. Jacob Van Artsdalen, David Austin, Peter Fish, and Dr. John McKnight. *Elders*—None.
4. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—None.
5. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—Messrs. John Woodhull and Gilbert T. Snowden. *Elders*—None.
6. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Messrs. James Boyd, John B. Smith, and Dr. Ashbel Green. *Elders*—Elijah Clark, and Isaac Snowden, Esqs.
7. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Ministers*—Messrs. Colin McFar-

quhar, Alexander Mitchell, and Dr. Robert Smith. *Elder*—John Whitehill, Esq.

9. PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—*Ministers*—Mr. George Luckie. *Elders*—None.

9. PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—*Minister*—Mr. John Rankin. *Elder*—Dr. John Tilton.

10. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Dr. Charles Nesbit, John King, Robert Davidson, and Mr. John Black. *Elders*—General John Armstrong, Messrs. Wm. McDowell, James McLane, and Matthew Dill.

11. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—*Ministers*—Messrs. John McMillan, John McPherrin, and Samuel Porter. *Elders*—None.

12. PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—*Ministers*—Messrs. William Mahon and Drury Lacy. *Elders*—None.

13. PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—*Ministers*—Messrs. Wm. Graham and Wm. Wilson. *Elder*—Mr. John Campbell.

14. PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—*Minister*—Dr. Samuel McCorkle. *Elders*—None.

15. PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—None.

16. PRESBYTERY OF ABINGDON—None.

17. PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—None.

The Assembly then proceeded to the choice of a Moderator and Clerks; and the Rev. Dr. John King was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Messrs. John Black and Drury Lacy were chosen Clerks.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last General Assembly be read.

Messrs. Woodhull, John Smith, Mitchell, Graham, and Dr. McCorkle, ministers; with the elders, Messrs. McLane, Whitehill, and Campbell, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Dr. Green and Mr. Graham were appointed a committee to examine the book of New York and New Jersey Synod.

Mr. Woodhull and Mr. Van Artsdalen were appointed a committee to examine the book of the Philadelphia Synod.

Mr. Snowden and Mr. Boyd were appointed a committee to examine the Virginia Synod book.

Mr. John Smith and Dr. McKnight were appointed a committee to examine the book of the Synod of the Carolinas.

Mr. Austin, Dr. Green, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Whitehill were appointed a committee to examine the accounts of the Treasurer, and to report as soon as convenient.

The committee appointed to meet in convention with a committee of the Congregational churches in Connecticut, at New Haven, transmitted the minutes of their proceedings to the General Assembly, which were read and the consideration of them postponed till to-morrow.

Adjourned, till to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 18th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, agreeably to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer.

Benjamin Smith, Esq., a commissioner from New Brunswick Presbytery, produced his commission, which being read, he took his seat.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The consideration of the minutes of the committee appointed to meet with a committee of the Congregational churches was further deferred.

The committee appointed to superintend the printing and dispersing of the

Confession of Faith, who were ordered by the Assembly of last year to endeavour to make a final settlement of the business committed to them at the present time, reported: That they had made all the exertions in their power to close the transactions which they were appointed to manage, but, by reason of a number of embarrassing circumstances, had not been able to issue the business: whereupon,

Ordered, That the said committee continue their exertions and endeavour to make a final report to the next General Assembly.

Drs. Robert Smith and McCorkle, with Messrs. Wm. Wilson, Van Artsdalen, and Woodhull, were appointed a committee to inquire whether it be expedient that a new impression of the Confession of Faith and Form of Government and Discipline of this Church should be made, and if so, to suggest in what manner it may most properly be done, and to report to the house on Monday morning next.

The General Assembly proceeded to inquire into the fulfilment of the missions to the frontiers, which had been appointed at the sessions of last year; when it appeared that Mr. Aaron Condict did not execute the appointment which was made. Mr. Boyd, by order of the Assembly, read before them a narrative of the manner in which the mission was fulfilled by him, accompanied with remarks and observations on the subjects which had been recommended to his attention by the former Assembly. On the hearing of which, the fidelity and diligence of Mr. Boyd in the discharge of the important trust committed to him received the full approbation of the Assembly. The Assembly, taking into consideration the importance of continuing missions to the frontiers, and the expediency of making arrangements for securing permanent advantages to the church from those missions, appointed the Rev. Messrs. Boyd, Austin, and McMillan, with Dr. Tilton and Mr. McLane, a committee, to suggest those measures most proper, in their opinion, to adopt, in order to effect this good purpose, and to make report as soon as possible.

The Synods of Virginia and of the Carolinas, having failed to make an official report to the General Assembly of the measures adopted by them respectively for supplying the frontiers of the United States with the ordinances of the Gospel; on motion,

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Graham and Lacy be a committee to prepare and bring in a written account of the prosecution of the plans which were stated to the Assembly last year from the Synod of Virginia, respecting missions within their bounds: and that Messrs. McCorkle and Porter be a committee to report such plans as may have been adopted for a similar purpose with respect to the Synod of the Carolinas. The Assembly do moreover repeat their injunctions to those Synods to send up an annual account of their proceedings in the premises and of their success to the General Assembly.

On motion, Ordered, That the report of the committee, appointed to confer with delegates from the Associate Reformed and the Reformed Protestant Dutch Synods, be deferred.

The several Presbyteries were called upon for their reports in regard to the order of the General Assembly upon the subject of a collection of materials for a history of the Presbyterian Church in America; when it appeared that they were diligently engaged in the business referred to them, and that satisfactory communications respecting it might be ready for the next General Assembly. Whereupon,

Ordered, That the several Presbyteries be careful to continue their attention to this subject, and be prepared to report upon it to the next General Assembly.

The Committee of Overtures made a report, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The committee appointed to inquire into the state of the funds placed in the hands of the Trustees of New Jersey College, by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, for the purpose of supporting and educating pious youth, reported,

That they had duly attended to the objects of their commission; but that the Trustees did declare, by an extract from their minutes on the subject, which was read in the General Assembly, that it was not in the power of that corporation to satisfy the committee of the General Assembly on the subject of their appointment. But that the corporation did appoint a committee to inquire into the subject, and to report specially upon it at the sessions of the board in April next, and that the determination of the board thereon be transmitted, as early as possible, to the Rev. Mr. Irwin, the chairman of the Assembly's committee.

Whereupon, *Resolved*, That the committee heretofore appointed be continued, and directed to prosecute the objects of their appointment, and report to the next General Assembly.

An extract from the will of Mr. James Lesly, deceased, attested by John Broome and John Bingham, executors of said Lesly, was introduced and read, and ordered to be recorded on the minutes of the General Assembly. It is as follows, viz:

"Item, I give and bequeath all the residue of my estate real and personal to the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, called Nassau Hall, and to their successors; to be by the said Trustees and their successors constantly kept at interest on good security. And it is my will that the interest arising from the said residue of my estate shall be appropriated to the education of poor and pious youth of the Presbyterian denomination for the work of the gospel ministry, and to no other purpose whatever. Provided, nevertheless, that if it should so happen that the said interest should in any year be more than sufficient to pay for the education of such youth in that year actually educated on this fund, then and in that case the said Trustees may and shall appropriate the surplus of such interest, for such year, towards the support of a missionary or missionaries to preach the gospel and administer its ordinances to the frontier inhabitants of the United States, if the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in these States shall judge it necessary to send missionaries to the frontiers in the year in which such surplus shall arise; and provided that such surplus shall not exceed thirty pounds. But if the said surplus shall exceed thirty pounds, New York currency, in that case my will is, that thirty pounds of it only be appropriated to the support of missionaries, as aforesaid, and that the residue of such surplus be added to the principal sum and put out at interest with it. And if it shall happen that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church aforesaid shall not judge it necessary to send missionaries to the frontiers, as aforesaid, in the year in which such surplus shall arise, then it is my will that the whole of such surplus shall be added to the capital or principal sum and put out at interest with it.

A true copy, examined by
JOHN BROOME,
JOHN BINGHAM, } *Executors.*"

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer. Members present as above.

The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, a commissioner from New Brunswick

Presbytery, and the Rev. John McDonald and Mr. Robert Henry, elder, commissioners from Albany Presbytery, produced their commissions, which being read, they took their seats.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

On motion, Ordered, That Mr. McDonald be annexed to the committee appointed to suggest the most proper measures for rendering the missions to the frontiers of permanent advantage.

The minutes of the Convention of the Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and of the General Association of the state of Connecticut, were taken into consideration, an extract of which is as follows, viz:

"Considering the importance of union and harmony in the Christian church, and the duty incumbent on all its pastors and members to assist each other in promoting, as far as possible, the general interest of the Redeemer's kingdom; and considering, further, that divine Providence appears to be now opening the door for pursuing these valuable objects with a happy prospect of success; this Convention are of opinion that it will be conducive to these important purposes that a Standing Committee of Correspondence be appointed in each body, whose duty it shall be, by frequent letters, to communicate to each other whatever may be mutually useful to the churches under their care and to the general interest of the Redeemer's kingdom. That each body should from time to time appoint a committee consisting of three members, who shall have a right to sit in the other's general meeting, and make such communications as shall be directed by their respective constituents, and deliberate on such matters as shall come before the body, but shall have no right to vote. That effectual measures be mutually taken to prevent injuries to the respective churches from irregular and unauthorized preachers. To promote this end, the Convention judge it expedient that every preacher travelling from the limits of one of these Churches into those of the other, shall be furnished with recent testimonials of his regular standing and good character as a preacher, signed by the Moderator of the Presbytery or Association in which he received his license; or, if a minister, of his good standing and character, as such, from the Moderator of the Presbytery or Association where he last resided, and that he shall, previously to his travelling as a preacher into distant parts, further, receive a recommendation from one member at least of a standing committee to be hereafter appointed by each body, certifying his good qualifications as a preacher. Also, that the names of this standing committee shall be mutually communicated. And also, that every preacher travelling and recommended as above, and submitting to the stated rules of the respective churches, shall be received as an authorized preacher of the gospel, and cheerfully taken under the patronage of the Presbytery or Association within whose bounds he shall find employment as a preacher. And that the proceedings of the respective bodies on this report be communicated to our brethren of the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches throughout the States."

Upon mature deliberation, the Assembly unanimously and cordially approved of the said plan; and to carry the same into effect, appointed the Rev. Drs. John Rodgers, John Witherspoon, and Ashbel Green, to be a Committee of Correspondence, agreeably to the said plan. And it is, moreover, agreed that this Assembly will send delegates to sit and consult with the General Association of Connecticut, and receive their delegates to sit in this Assembly, agreeably to another article of the plan, as soon as due information shall be received that it is adopted on the part of the General Association of Connecticut.

The Rev. Dr. McKnight, Dr. McWhorter, Mr. John Woodhull, Dr. Samuel

S. Smith, Dr. Alison, Dr. Nesbit, Mr. John B. Smith, Mr. Graham, Mr. Lacy, Mr. McCall, Mr. McDonald, and Dr. McCorkle, were appointed a Standing Committee, to certify the good qualifications of the preachers travelling to officiate in the bounds of the Association of the State of Connecticut.

And it was, moreover, agreed, that any preacher travelling as aforesaid shall have at least the name of one of the committee who shall belong to the Synod from whose bounds he came.

Agreeably to the injunctions of the General Assembly, last year, to the several Presbyteries on the subject of contributions for the purpose of raising permanent funds, the Presbyteries rendered in their reports respectively; the consideration of which was deferred.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Saturday*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. *P. P. S. Q. S.*

The Rev. Messrs. Aaron Woolworth and Nathan Woodhull, with Isaac T. Reeve, Esq., elder, from the Presbytery of Long Island, produced their commissions, which being read, they took their seats.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That the Rev. Aaron Woolworth be added to the Standing Committee appointed to certify the good qualifications of those preachers belonging to this body who may travel to officiate in the bounds of the General Association of the State of Connecticut.

The General Assembly entered upon the consideration of the reports from the different Presbyteries respecting the contributions for the purpose of raising permanent funds, which being discussed for some time, upon motion,

*Resolved*, That Messrs. J. Woodhull and Austin be a committee to prepare a minute upon that subject, and report as soon as convenient.

An appeal from, and complaint against, a vote of the Synod of Philadelphia, in the case of Mr. Hindman, was introduced before the Assembly through the Committee of Overtures, and read. It was as follows, viz:

" It was overtured by the Presbytery of New Castle, that the Synod be requested to review the minute of their last meeting on the case of Mr. Hindman, and also to take into their consideration the conduct of Lewes Presbytery, in the affair of his licensure.

The vote being put, *grant their request or not?* it was carried *not.*

We, whose names are hereunto annexed, dissent from the aforesaid vote of Synod, and complain of, and appeal therefrom, to the next General Assembly, for the following reasons:

1. Because, in our apprehension, the Synod have, by their vote in this affair, deprived aggrieved members of a privilege to which they have a just claim.

2. Because the Synod by this vote have, in our opinion, refused to correct the errors in their proceedings of last year, which were censured by the General Assembly, and which, in consequence of that censure, ought to be corrected.

3. Because the vote, as we believe, will, in its effects, tend to keep alive and increase uneasiness in the Presbyteries of New Castle and Lewes.

4. Because we believe that the whole transactions of the Synod of Philadelphia, relative to this affair, have been in direct violation of a known and wholesome rule of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, respecting the licensure of candidates, and contained in their Minutes of 1764, pages 78 and 80. And we likewise believe, that this violation has a tendency to promote irregularity, deception, and injury, both among the churches and judicatures of the Presbyterian body.

For these reasons we dissent from the above mentioned vote of the Synod of Philadelphia. And we do complain of, and appeal from it, to the General Assembly of this church; and now give information that we will bring this affair, in all its merits, before that body at their next meeting.

ROBERT SMITH, ALEXANDER MITCHELL,
JOHN MCCREARY, WM. R. SMITH,
ASHBEL GREEN, ISAAC FOSTER,
NATHAN GRIER.

*Philadelphia, October,* 1791."

The minutes of the Synod respecting this case, were read, and the parties heard at some length; and farther proceedings on it were deferred till the afternoon.

Ordered, That the Synodical reports be brought in and read. They are as follows, viz:

"The Synod of New York and New Jersey report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, agreeably to their directions in a letter dated May 25th, 1789, that the Synod consists of five Presbyteries—Albany, Dutchess, Long Island, New York, and New Brunswick.

1. That the Presbytery of Albany consists of seven ministers, four of whom have pastoral charges, and three have not charges. They have nineteen vacant congregations, ten of which are each able to support a minister, and nine are not yet able; and they have two licentiates under their care, as appears by their report to Synod, No. 1.

2. That the Presbytery of Dutchess consists of five ministers, four of whom have pastoral charges, and one has no charge. They have four vacant congregations, two of which are each able to support a minister, and two are not able. One of their members has been removed by death, August 24th, 1790, as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 2.

3. That the Presbytery of Long Island consists of twelve ministers, eight of whom have pastoral charges, and four have not charges. They have five vacant congregations, four of which are supposed able each to support a minister, and one is not yet able, as appears by their report to Synod, No. 3.

4. That the Presbytery of New York consists of twenty-two ministers, nineteen of whom have pastoral charges, one has the care of an academy at Hackensack, and two have not charges. They have six vacant congregations, two of which are able each to support a minister, and five are not yet able. They have one licentiate. One of their members has been removed by death in October, 1790, as appears by their report to Synod, No. 4.

5. That the Presbytery of New Brunswick consists of fifteen ministers, twelve of whom have pastoral charges; one is president, and one vice-president of the College of New Jersey, and one has no charge. They have ten vacant congregations, one of which is able to support a minister in a single capacity, four, in their present united state, are able to support two ministers, and five are not able. They have four licentiates under their care, as appears by their report to Synod, No. 5.

JOHN RODGERS, *Stated Clerk of Synod.*"

"*Philadelphia, October* 21*st,* 1791.

The Synod of Philadelphia report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, agreeably to their direction, that the Synod consists of five Presbyteries, viz: Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, Lewes, and Baltimore.

1. Philadelphia Presbytery consists of thirteen ministers, eleven of whom have charges, and two have not charges. They have five licentiates. Nine

vacancies, of which four are able to support each a minister, and two are not able. They have, during the year past, dismissed a candidate to join the Presbytery of New Brunswick; installed one of their members as minister of one of their vacant congregations; licensed one candidate to preach the gospel, and put calls into the hands of two candidates which are accepted. They have likewise given attention to the order of the General Assembly respecting contributions. All of which will appear by their report to Synod, No. 1.

2. New Castle Presbytery consists of sixteen ministers, fifteen of whom have charges, and one has no charge. They have five vacancies, three of which are able to support a minister separately, and two of which are able in connection to support a minister. They have four licentiates. During the year past, they have installed one of their members as minister of the united congregations of New Castle and Christiana Bridge. They have likewise used their endeavours to raise contributions for the funds established by the General Assembly. All of which will appear by their report to the Synod, No. 2.

3. Carlisle Presbytery consists of twenty-six ministers, twenty-two of whom have charges, and four have not charges. They have nineteen vacancies, of which eleven are not yet able to support a minister; three, taken in connection, are able to support a minister; two others, taken connectedly, are also able; and three are able, separately, to support a minister. They have three licentiates. During the year past they have licensed one candidate, they have dismissed one to join the Presbytery of Lexington, and they have ordained one to the work of the gospel ministry. They have given some attention Presbyterially to the raising of contributions for the funds of the General Assembly, but what has been the effect of their measures cannot at present be ascertained. All of which will appear by their report to Synod, No. 3.

4. Lewes Presbytery consists of five ministers, all of whom have charges. They have three licentiates; they have six vacancies, two of which are able, in connection, to support a minister; three others of which, taken connectedly, are able to support a minister, and one not able. During the year past they have put a call from three of their vacancies into the hands of one of their candidates. Two congregations have raised contributions for the funds established by order of the General Assembly. All of which will appear from their report to the Synod, No. 4.

5. Baltimore Presbytery, from which the Synod has not been able to obtain any report, as none of their members have attended the Synod for these two years past.

The Synod, moreover, report to the General Assembly, that their situation is truly distressing by reason of the frequent absence of their members, which renders the meetings of Synod almost useless; that they have employed every mean in their power to remedy this evil; that hitherto they have been unsuccessful, so that it is even a doubt with some of the members whether the number which attends is sufficient legally to constitute a Synod. And that those who do attend, sincerely lamenting and deeply grieved at these circumstances, implore the advice and assistance of the General Assembly in regard to the measures which ought to be pursued.

Signed by order of Synod, Wm. M. Tennent, *Moderator*."

Whereas the Synod of Philadelphia have stated in their report that their situation is truly distressing, by reason of the frequent absence of their members, which renders the meetings of Synod almost useless; that they have employed every mean in their power to remedy this evil, but that hitherto they have been unsuccessful; the General Assembly hereby enjoin it upon the members of those Presbyteries which compose that Synod to be more careful in attending to their duty in this important respect. And, particularly, that the Presbytery of Baltimore, which, it appears, have been entirely absent from that body for two years, be attentive to this recommendation.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk transmit a copy of this minute to the respective Presbyteries.

The General Assembly, having proceeded thus far in hearing the reports from the Synods, on motion,

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment. *P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

Ordered, That the business of the appeal, introduced last session, be now resumed. Whereupon the parties were heard at full length; and previous to the discussion of the merits of the cause, it was

*Resolved*, That no minister belonging to the Synod of Philadelphia, nor elder who was a member of the judicature when the vote appealed from took place, shall vote in the decision thereof by this Assembly.

The Moderator, being a member of the Synod of Philadelphia, withdrew, and Dr. McKnight took the chair.

The General Assembly, having spent some time in the consideration of the case of the appeal before them, upon motion,

*Resolved*, That Drs. Witherspoon and McKnight, and Messrs. Woodhull and Austin, be a committee to draught a minute on the above case, to be laid before the Assembly on Monday morning.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday Morning*, 9 *o'clock, May* 21*st.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment. *P. P. S. Q. S.*—except Dr. Tilton, who obtained leave of absence.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

A petition was laid before the General Assembly from the Presbyterian church in the Island of Bermuda, requesting the settlement of a Mr. Enoch Matson, an elder, formerly connected with the Methodist Church, who was represented as willing to subscribe the doctrine, discipline, and government of the Presbyterian Church, accompanied with a request from the Presbytery of Baltimore for direction in what manner to proceed in receiving him into this church.

On mature deliberation, the Assembly recommend to the Presbytery of Baltimore to proceed in receiving Mr. Matson to trials for the ministry in the same manner as if no licensure or ordination by the Methodist Church had taken place.

The Moderator, being a member of the Synod of Philadelphia, and excluded a vote in the case of an appeal from the proceedings of that Synod, again withdrew, and Dr. McKnight took the chair.

The committee appointed to draught a minute respecting the appeal from the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, whereby they refused to revise a minute of their preceding sessions, in the case of Mr. Hindman, and refused to take into consideration the conduct of the Presbytery of Lewes in the affair of his licensure, produced a draught to that purpose, which, after some amendment, was approved, and is as follows, viz:

The Assembly having had the whole affair laid before them, and fully heard the parties, after mature deliberation, judged, that in the case of Mr. Hindman, there appeared to have been such a want of attention to the rules of this body, and neglect of order, as to afford just ground of uneasiness to the appellants, and to deserve the disapprobation of the Assembly. But inasmuch as acts which have been performed in an informal manner must often, when done, be sustained, the Assembly do hereby sustain the licensure and ordination of Mr. Hindman, while, at the same time, they enjoin it, in the most pointed manner, on the Synod of Philadelphia, to give particular attention that no Presbytery under their care depart, in any respect, from that rule of the former Synod of New York and Philadelphia, which is as follows, viz: "Any student in divinity, who professes a design to enter into the ministry, has a right, in our present situation, to study for his improvement under the direction of any divine of reputation in the Synod, according to a former act. But that when he proposes to enter upon trials with a view to the ministry, he shall come under the care of that Presbytery to which he most naturally belongs; and he shall be deemed most naturally to belong to that Presbytery in whose bounds he has been brought up and lived for the most part, and where he is best known. But if another Presbytery desire that any student or students should come into their bounds, or if any such student or students, for greater convenience, or from any circumstances that make it necessary, desire to enter upon trials in a different Presbytery, upon his offering satisfactory reasons, he may be dismissed. But in either case, the Presbytery to which he removes shall not receive nor admit him to come under trials upon his having a certificate as a regular church member only; but he shall bring a testimonial from the Presbytery, or several neighbouring ministers where he lived, recommending him as a candidate for the ministry, of exemplary piety and holiness of conversation; nor shall any thing less be deemed a sufficient recommendation." It was

Ordered, That the foregoing rule, established by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia in 1764, be published for the information of Presbyteries.

Upon motion,

Ordered, That the above minute be entered on the minutes of the Synod of Philadelphia, and that a copy of this judgment be transmitted to every Presbytery under their care.

The committee appointed to suggest measures proper to be adopted by the Assembly, in order to render the missions to the frontiers of permanent advantage, brought in a report, which was ordered to lie on the table.

On motion,

*Resolved,* That a catalogue be kept, according to seniority in the ministry, of the names of all ministers belonging to the Presbyterian church in America, beginning May, 1789, the period when the first General Assembly met; and that after the decease of any minister, his name shall be marked with an asterism, and opposite to it, in a column for that purpose, the time of his death shall be set down, and in another, the name of the Presbytery to which he last belonged. And the names of new members shall be added, from year to year, when the Synodical and Presbyterial reports shall be made.

Agreeably to the above resolution,

Ordered, That every Presbytery belonging to this body shall send up to the next General Assembly a list of all their members, with the dates of their ordination respectively.

The committee appointed to review the minutes of the Synod of Philadelphia, made their report, and the book was in general approved to the end of the sessions in October, 1791.

The reports of the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas were brought in and read. They are as follows, viz:

"The Synod of Virginia report, that they consist of four Presbyteries, viz: Hanover, Redstone, Lexington, and Transylvania.

1. The Presbytery of Hanover consists of ten ordained ministers—the Rev. Messrs. John Todd, James Waddel, William Irvine, John B. Smith, Archibald McRobert, James Mitchel, John D. Blair, Drury Lacy, William Mahon, and Nash Le Grand; all settled pastors of particular churches. They have eight vacant congregations. They have two licentiates, who are under the direction of the commission of Synod. They have four candidates, viz: William Cahoon, James Turner, Samuel Brown, and Moses Waddel.

2. Redstone Presbytery consists of twelve ordained ministers—the Rev. Messrs. James Finley, John Clark, Joseph Smith, John McMillan, James Power, Thaddeus Dodd, James Dunlap, Joseph Patterson, James Hughes, John Brice, John McPherrin, and Samuel Porter; all settled pastors of particular churches. Mr. Robert Finley, an ordained minister of Redstone Presbytery, has taken a dismission, in order to go to Kentucky. Mr. Robert Marshall, a licentiate of Redstone Presbytery, is under the care and direction of the commission of Synod. They have also two candidates under trial for the gospel ministry, viz: George Hill, and William Swan. Mr. John Hanna, formerly a candidate, is dismissed from trials. They have twenty-four vacant congregations.

3. The Presbytery of Lexington consists of ten ordained ministers, viz: the Rev. Messrs. John Brown, William Graham, Archibald Scott, Edward Crawford, John Montgomery, Benjamin Ervin, William Wilson, Moses Hoge, John McCue, and Samuel Houston; all pastors of particular churches. Mr. Carrick has removed into the bounds of Abingdon Presbytery since the last Synod. They have one licentiate, viz: Mr. John Lyle. They have six candidates, viz: Messrs. Archibald Alexander, Benjamin Grigsby, Matthew Lyle, Thomas Poage, John Campbell, and Matthew Houston. They have six vacancies.

No report was received from the Presbytery of Transylvania."

"The Synod of the Carolinas met at Thyatira, October 5th, 1791, report to the General Assembly, that they consist of three Presbyteries, viz: Orange, South Carolina, and Abingdon.

1. The Presbytery of Orange consists of ten ministers who have charges, and one who has no charge: they have three probationers who have accepted calls, and two who have calls under consideration: they have four probationers without calls, and five candidates: they have seven vacancies able to support ministers, and seventeen which are not yet able.

2. The Presbytery of South Carolina consists of ten ministers who have charges, and three who have not charges: they have two licentiates and nine candidates: they have nine vacancies able to support pastors, and twenty-nine which are not able. No members from Abingdon Presbytery attended, nor did any report reach the Synod from them.

Attested by Samuel McCorkle, *Syn. Clerk.*"

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Three o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment. *P. P. S. Q. S.*

The committee appointed to review the minutes of the Synod of the Carolinas made their report, and the records were in general approved to October 7th, 1791.

The committee appointed to consider the expediency of a new impression of the Confession of Faith, Form of Government and Discipline of this Church, reported, That upon inquiry they found that the demand for the book was increasing; that there were still a considerable, though not a sufficient, number of copies on hand; that, therefore, another impression appeared expedient, in which if the Scripture proofs were inserted at length it would become more acceptable and might be of greater utility to the churches; and proposed, that a committee be appointed properly to select and arrange the Scripture texts to be adduced in support of the articles in the Confession of Faith, Form of Government and Discipline, and prepare the same to be laid before the next General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Robert Smith and Messrs. Mitchell and Grier be a committee to carry the above into execution.

The committee appointed to draught a minute, in consequence of the reports of the several Synods and Presbyteries respecting collections for missionaries and for the support of commissioners to the General Assembly, and for defraying the incidental expenses of this body, brought in the following which was approved, viz: It appeared from the proceedings of the Synod of New York and New Jersey and the Synod of Philadelphia, as well as from the Presbyteries composing those bodies, that they have directed collections to be made, agreeably to the order of the Assembly, and that certain sums of money, so collected, had been handed to Mr. Isaac Snowden, the Treasurer, or were ready for that purpose; but that some part had not been as yet sent forward. From the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas it appeared that they had supported their own missionaries agreeably to the direction of last year's Assembly, and that through mistake or want of information one Presbytery only from those Synods had made collections for the purpose of constituting a permanent fund for the support of commissioners: whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the moneys collected by the Synod of New York and by the Synod of Philadelphia for the purpose of supporting missionaries to the frontiers and not yet brought in, be as soon as convenient transmitted to the Treasurer: and that such moneys as have been collected by Presbyteries for defraying the expenses of commissioners be retained by them, and that each Presbytery pay their own commissioners for the future, and for attending this present Assembly. And in case any Presbytery has already paid into the hands of the Treasurer money for said purpose, the Treasurer is hereby directed to return the same.

The committee appointed to review the minutes of the Synod of New York and New Jersey made their report, and the records were approved to the 37th page, except a vote of that Synod by which they determine it to be constitutional for that Synod to enact, "That in future candidates who have the gospel ministry in view be required to attend to the study of divinity, at least three years before licensure;" which vote was determined by the Assembly to be unconstitutional.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, As a standing order of this house, that whenever more than three persons are standing up at one time, the Moderator shall require them to take their seats.

The committee appointed to bring in a report on the subject of missionaries within the bounds of the Synod of the Carolinas, informed the Assembly from the minutes of that Synod that they have appointed a commission of their body to superintend the said business; that they have appointed four missionaries at a salary of two hundred dollars each per annum; and that they are proceeding with unanimity and zeal in the prosecution of that important object; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the said report be approved.

The following proposition was introduced through the Committee of Bills and Overtures, viz: That the General Assembly take measures to bring into distinct view at its different sessions the situation of the Presbyterian Church under its jurisdiction in the United States of America, with respect to the state of religion in the different Presbyteries, the state of religious denominations amongst them, and the most probable expedients for reviving and promoting the essential interests of Christ's kingdom in the world; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to each Synod to enjoin it upon the respective Presbyteries within their bounds, to specify the above particulars in the annual reports which they make of the state of their respective churches, to be laid before the General Assembly at its stated meetings.

A question from the Synod of the Carolinas was introduced through the Committee of Bills and Overtures, which was as follows, viz:

"Are they who publicly profess a belief in the doctrine of the universal and actual salvation of the whole human race, or of the fallen angels, or both, through the mediation of Christ, to be admitted to the sealing ordinances of the gospel?"

The Assembly determined that such persons should not be admitted.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment. *P. P. S. Q. S.*—except Mr. McLane and Mr. McDowel, who had leave of absence.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

The committee appointed to examine the state of the Treasurer's accounts, reported that they had executed that business, and that they had found in the hands of the Treasurer a balance of £148 5*s.* 3*d.* in favour of the General Assembly.

The committee appointed to review the minutes of the Synod of Virginia, made their report, and the records were in general approved to the end of the sessions of October, 1791.

A report was received from the committee appointed to bring in an account of the prosecution of the plan, by the Synod of Virginia, respecting missionaries within their bounds, which was approved.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the several Presbyteries of this Church to consider whether it would be proper to extend the time necessary for young men to apply to the study of divinity before they be taken on trials, to three years at least, and to send up a report of their opinion with their commissioners to the next Assembly.

On motion, Ordered, that in future the arrangement of the annual Presbyterial reports be according to the seniority of the congregations of which each Presbytery is composed.

The committee on the subject of missions made their report, which was approved.

The Rev. John McDonald, the Rev. David Austin, and Mr. Isaac Grier, a probationer under the care of Carlisle Presbytery, were appointed missionaries from this Assembly to the frontier settlements, for the space of four months, to commence from the 15th of June next.

*Resolved*, That the sum of thirty-three and one third dollars per month be allowed to each missionary for his service, and that the Treasurer advance to each the sum of fifty dollars, to be accounted for by them as part of their salary. On motion,

Ordered, That Dr. Green, Mr. John B. Smith, and Mr. Boyd, be a committee to draught a commission for the missionaries, to be laid before the Assembly in the afternoon.

A proposition respecting the propriety and utility of a mission into the State of Maryland, and places adjacent, was brought in by the Committee of Overtures and submitted. The General Assembly approved of the proposition, and appointed the Rev. John Craighead, a missionary into those parts, to spend two months on that business. And, *Resolved*, That he be allowed the same compensation per month as the missionaries before appointed, and that the Treasurer advance twenty-five dollars to him, to be accounted for as part of his salary.

The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly presented an account of 2*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, paid to Robert Aitkin, a printer, for certain services, which account was allowed, and the Treasurer ordered to pay the same.

*Resolved*, That the salary of the Stated Clerk in future be ten dollars per annum.

Adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment. *P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

The committee appointed to draught a commission for the missionaries sent this year to the frontiers by the General Assembly, made a report, which was approved, and is as follows, viz :

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, now sitting at Carlisle, do hereby appoint the bearer hereof, the Rev. . . . . . . ., minister of the gospel in the congregation of . . . . . . ., and in good and regular standing with this church, to be their missionary to certain frontiers of this country, for the time and purposes hereafter specified ; that is to say, he is to set out on his mission on the 15th day of June next, or as near to that time as possible, and to continue employed in the business of his mission for the space of four months. He is to begin his tour of service at the eastern allotment, (Kayadorosseras,) in the state of New York, and proceed from thence to the north-west frontiers of Pennsylvania, and the west and south-west frontiers of New York, as far as the settlements in those quarters extend, and to return through the same country by a different route, and visit the settlements on the lakes Champlain and George. [The foregoing description of a route is to be inserted in the commissions of Mr. McDonald and Mr. Austin, but the description for Mr. Grier is to be as follows :] To begin at Northumberland in the state of Pennsylvania, and proceed from thence up the west branch of the Susquehanna river as far as the settlements extend, then traverse the country till he arrive at Tioga point, thence up the Chemung to the Cayuga lake, or wherever he may fall into the route of the other missionaries. In fulfilling his duty as a missionary, he is to preach the gospel in season and out of season, and be diligent in catechizing and instructing youth in the general principles of religion wherever he goes ; to insist on the doctrines of grace, and establish the people as much as possible in the fundamental truths of the gospel ; to preach generally in an evangelical and practical strain, and in families to seek and embrace the opportunities of conversing on religious subjects. He is to attempt to organize churches wherever it may be practicable, and to give the necessary information on church government and discipline. He is to be particular in his inquiries respecting the relative state of the religious denominations wherever he may happen to pass ; to keep a distinct journal of his progress, and to make report to the next General Assembly.

Signed by order of the General Assembly,

. . . . . . . . . . *Moderator.*

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the river Potomac be the boundary line between the Synods of Philadelphia and Virginia, except the congregation of Alexandria, which shall belong to the Synod of Philadelphia.

Ordered, That Mr. Monteith supply the pulpit at Elizabeth Town the first Sabbath in July ; Mr. Faitoute the second Sabbath in July ; Dr. Witherspoon the third Sabbath in July; Dr. Smith, of Princeton, the fourth Sabbath in July; Mr. John B. Smith the fifth Sabbath in July; and that the Presbytery of New York, at their meeting on the last Tuesday of June, do take measures to supply the pulpit at Elizabeth Town, the whole remaining Sabbaths, during which Mr. Austin shall be absent on his mission, except the last Sabbath of September, on which Dr. Green is appointed to supply. Mr. Gilbert Snowden was appointed to supply Mr. McDonald's pulpit for six Sabbaths; Dr. McKnight for three Sabbaths; Mr. Monteith for five Sabbaths; and Mr. William Smith, of New Castle Presbytery, for three Sabbaths. Dr. Witherspoon was appointed to supply Mr. Snowden's pulpit the third Sabbath in June; Dr. S. S. Smith the fourth Sabbath of the same month; Mr. Woodhull the first Sabbath in July; Mr. Grant the third, Mr. Clark the second, and Mr. Hanna the fourth Sabbath of that month. Mr. Nathan Woodhull was appointed to supply Dr. McKnight's pulpit the fifth Sabbath in July; Mr. J. B. Smith the first Sabbath in August, and Dr. McWhorter the second Sabbath in August. Mr. Irwin, of Philadelphia Presbytery, was appointed to supply Mr. Monteith's pulpit the third Sabbath in August; Mr. Irwin's pulpit to be supplied at the same time by Mr. Hunter. Mr. William Boyd to supply for Mr. Monteith the fourth Sabbath of August; Mr. Rue the first Sabbath in September; Mr. James Boyd the second Sabbath, and Mr. Armstrong the third Sabbath of the same month. Dr. Robert Smith was appointed to supply Mr. William Smith's pulpit the fourth Sabbath in September; Mr. Grier the fifth Sabbath of the same month, and Mr. McCriery the first Sabbath of October.

The Janitor produced a bill of 3*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, for attendance upon and expenses incurred on account of the General Assembly, which was accepted.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay the same.

Dr. Green, Mr. John B. Smith, and Isaac Snowden, Esq., were appointed a committee to make extracts from the minutes for publication, and to have one thousand copies published, and sent to the different Presbyteries as soon as possible.

Ordered, That the Treasurer transmit fifty copies of the Confession of Faith to Albany, to be distributed by the missionaries among the inhabitants on the frontiers.

*Resolved*, That the next General Assembly meet in the Second Presbyterian church, in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday in May, 1793, at 11 o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1792.

### SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany, | 4 | 3 | 2 | 19 |
| Dutchess, | 4 | 1 | | 4 |
| Long Island, | 8 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| New York, | 19 | 3 | 1 | 5* |
| New Brunswick, | 12 | 3 | 4 | 10 |

### SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia, | 11 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| New Castle, | 15 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Carlisle, | 22 | 4 | 3 | 19 |
| Lewes, | 5 | | | 6 |
| Baltimore. No Report. | | | | |

---

* The Rev. Dr. Hugh Knox, of this Presbytery, died at St. Croix, October, 1790.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SYNOD OF VIRGINIA. | | | | |
| Hanover, | 10 | | 2 | 8 |
| Redstone, | 12 | | | 24 |
| Lexington, | 10 | | 1 | 6 |
| Transylvania. No report. | | | | |
| SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS. | | | | |
| Orange, | 10 | 1 | 9 | 24 |
| South Carolina, | 10 | 3 | 2 | 38 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | |
| Total, | 152 | 25 | 34 | 182 |

## 1793.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 16*th*, 1793.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to appointment, in the Second Presbyterian church, in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened by the Rev. Dr. King, the last year's Moderator, with a sermon from 2 Cor. v. 18 : "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."

Ordered, That the commissions of the members present be delivered to the Stated Clerk, and that he prepare a list of the commissioners, to be presented in the afternoon.

By order of the General Assembly, the commissions of the members present were publicly read, agreeably to the order of the constitution, were found substantially coincident with form, and were accordingly accepted as valid.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and constituted with prayer.

The Clerk, according to order, delivered in a list of the commissioners present at the opening of the Assembly, which is as follows, viz :

1. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—*Ministers*—Messrs. Herman Daggett, and George Faitoute. *Elder*—Mr. Benjamin Thursten.

2. PRESBYTERY OF DUTCHESS—*Minister*—Mr. Benjamin Judd. *Elders*—None.

3. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Dr. John Rodgers, Messrs. John Close, Andrew King, and Benjamin Woodruff. *Elders*—Messrs. James Hunter, Peter Ryker, and Matthew Freeman.

4. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—*Minister*—Mr. John Warford. *Elder*—Mr. Edward Savage.

5. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—Messrs. John Woodhull, Ira Condict, and Joseph Rue. *Elders*—Messrs. John Morehead and Samuel Kennedy.

6. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Messrs. Nathaniel Irwin, Isaac Foster and John Gemmil. *Elders*—Messrs. Isaac Harris and Elijah Clark.

7. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Ministers*—Messrs. James Latta and Nathaniel W. Semple. *Elders*—Messrs. George McIlvain and John Fleming.

8. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Messrs. John Craighead, John Linn, James Johnson, John King, and Thomas McPherrin. *Elders*—Messrs. Samuel Laird and Elias Davidson.

9. Presbytery of Baltimore—*Minister*—Dr. James Muir. *Elders*—None.

10. Presbytery of Lewes—None.

11. Presbytery of Redstone—*Ministers*—Messrs. James Hughes and Jacob Jennings. *Elders*—None.

12. Presbytery of Hanover—None.

13. Presbytery of Lexington—*Minister*—Mr. Moses Hoge. *Elders*—None.

14. Presbytery of Orange—None.

15. Presbytery of South Carolina—None.

16. Presbytery of Abingdon—None.

17. Presbytery of Transylvania—None.

The General Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, and the Rev. James Latta was elected to that office.

On motion, *Resolved*, That it be considered as the right of every member of the Assembly to vote for a clerk who is not a member of the body.

The Assembly proceeded to the election of their clerks, when Mr. Nathaniel Irwin and Dr. Ashbel Green were duly chosen.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Edwards and the Rev. Mr. Matthias Burnet, from the General Association of the State of Connecticut, appeared in the Assembly, produced an extract from the records of that Association, whereby it appeared that the convention between that Association and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America had been ratified on their part, and that these gentlemen, with the Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, were appointed, agreeably to an article of said convention, to sit in this Assembly. Whereupon, Dr. Edwards and Mr. Burnet were admitted as members, and took their seats accordingly.

The following members were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, viz : ministers, Messrs. Faitoute, Judd, Warford, Condict, Gemmil, McPherrin, Muir, Hughes, and Hoge; elders, Messrs. Freeman, Savage, McIlvain, Davidson, and Kennedy.

Ordered, That this committee meet in this place to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

By order, The minutes of the General Assembly of the last year were read.

Mr. Peter Leslie, the sexton of this church, was appointed janitor during the sessions of this Assembly.

Ordered, That Messrs. King, Craighead, and Laird, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and that Messrs. Woodhull, King, and Ryker, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

Ordered, That Messrs. Woodhull and Clark be a committee to examine the accounts of the Treasurer.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 17*th*,—9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and constituted with prayer.

The following gentlemen appeared and produced their commissions, which were read, and they were admitted as members, viz: Rev. Messrs. Drury Lacy, from the Presbytery of Hanover; John Rankin, and Jacob Ker, from the Presbytery of Lewes; Dr. Patrick Alison, from the Presbytery of Baltimore; and Mr. James Power, from the Presbytery of Redstone; together with the elders, Christopher Johnson, from the Presbytery of Baltimore, and Joshua Jennings, from the Presbytery of New York. Mr. William Morris, an elder, from the Presbytery of Lewes, was admitted as a member, though he had neglected to bring his commission, as it appeared from the records of the Presbytery, which were present, that he was duly appointed.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

The Rev. John McDonnel, who was appointed a missionary by the last General Assembly, transmitted a letter to this Assembly, inclosing a narrative of the fulfilment of his mission; which letter with the inclosures was read. A similar report from Mr. Isaac Grier, a probationer under the care of the Presbytery of Carlisle, who was appointed to a like mission by the last Assembly, was also brought in and read.

On motion, Ordered, that Messrs. Lacy and Hoge be a committee to bring in a written account of the measures which have been adopted by the Synod of Virginia for sending missionaries to the frontier inhabitants and vacant congregations within their bounds, and the manner in which these missions have been executed.

Ordered, That Dr. Alison, with Messrs. Lacy, Hoge, Ker, and Warford, be a committee to examine the reports and narratives of the missionaries of the General Assembly of last year, which have been submitted to this house, and such other communications, of a similar nature, as shall be made, and report thereon on Monday morning next.

It appeared that the Rev. David Austin, who was appointed a missionary by the Assembly of last year, had not fulfilled the mission assigned him. His excuse for this failure was read and accepted.

An inquiry was instituted respecting the progress which has been made by the different Presbyteries, under the superintendence of the General Assembly, in regard to the collection of materials for a history of the Presbyterian Church; when it appeared that none of the Presbyteries were prepared to make a final report on that subject, but that most of them had made very considerable progress in it, and were diligently employed in endeavouring to bring it to a satisfactory issue; whereupon,

Ordered, That Presbyteries continue their attention to this important object, and, if possible, make a final report to the Assembly of next year.

Ordered, Moreover, that Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Woodhull, be a committee to draught a letter to the Presbyteries of Orange, South Carolina, Abingdon, and Transylvania, which may inform them of the order of Assembly on this point, and urge their attention to it.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, the minutes of the last sitting were read.

Ordered, That a vote be taken to-morrow morning for three commissioners to attend the General Association of Connecticut, and that the members come prepared to give in their ballots for that purpose.

Drs. Rodgers, Smith, and Green, were appointed a Committee of Correspondence, agreeably to a plan of union agreed upon between this Assembly and the General Association of Connecticut. On motion,

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish the delegates from the General Association of Connecticut, now attending this body, with an attested copy of the record of the last General Assembly, appointing a standing committee of this body to certify the good character of ministers travelling from the bounds of the General Assembly into those of the General Association of Connecticut.

The General Assembly of last year having ordered the different Presbyteries to report to this Assembly lists of their members, according to seniority in the ministry, the Assembly proceeded to inquire for the Presbyterial reports on this subject; when it appeared that the Presbyteries had generally taken order thereon, but for want of time, and by reason of other circumstances, the lists were not completed. Whereupon,

Ordered, That the Presbyteries continue their diligent attention to this object, and make return to the next General Assembly.

A letter was received and read from Mr. Mitchell, one of the members of a committee appointed by the Assembly of 1792, to revise and prepare for publication an edition of the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Form of Government and Discipline of this Church, informing this Assembly, that considerable progress had been made in the business, but that it was still incomplete. Whereupon, the business was recommitted, and the Moderator added to the committee in the place of the Rev. Dr. Robert Smith deceased, and they were directed to report to the Assembly in 1794.*

The Rev. John Craighead, a missionary appointed by the last Assembly, gave in a narrative of his labours in consequence of that appointment.

The Rev. Dr. Dwight, one of the delegates from the General Association of Connecticut, appeared in the Assembly and took his seat.

The Assembly called for the reports of the Presbyteries relative to a point on which their opinion was required by the last Assembly, viz: "Whether it would be proper to extend the time necessary for young men to apply to the study of divinity, before they be taken on trials, to three years at least?" When it appeared that a considerable majority of the Presbyteries had given it as their opinion that the time of study ought not to be extended.

---

* *The Rev. the General Assembly.*

*Upper Octorara, May 14th,* 1793.

Rev. Fathers and Brethren—The task assigned the Rev. Doctor Robert Smith, Mr. Grier, and myself, by the last General Assembly of our Church, was divided by your committee in the following manner, Doctor Smith undertook to adduce Scripture testimony in proof of the Larger Catechism, Mr. Grier the Shorter, and Mr. Mitchell the Confession of Faith and Church Government. Doctor Smith's remove from serving any longer in the Church militant, has left his part unfinished, and uncorrected, (if correction it requires.) I send his manuscripts, and the printed book, which was the Doctor's property. Mr. Grier will inform the Rev. the General Assembly, what progress he has made on his part. Your correspondent has completed the proofs for the Confession of Faith, and made some progress on Church Government, the first twelve chapters; but a severe pain in my right arm, attended with a paralysis in my hand, prevented me from finishing what I had inconsiderately undertaken. I hope I shall not tire nor repent of any poor service I may be called to perform to the Church of Christ; but this was a herculean labour for the time assigned to do it in.

The General Assembly will perceive my method, which was to mention the chapter in the Confession, with its title and the several sections it contains; then insert the small letters of the Roman alphabet in the printed copy, and these serve to direct to those texts of Scripture adduced to prove the subject, or any part of it where they are placed. Those texts that appear to me to be most adequate and suitable to the design, I have wrote out in full. Where I have viewed them as serving either as parallel, or corroborating, I have only set down book, chapter and verse in figures. There may be *Lapsus Pennæ*, which can be corrected when reviewed and examined. But these with many other things I submit to the Assembly's correction and inspection. Had it been pardonable, I should have taken the liberty to have altered some of the terms and phraseology in our translation, as more correspondent to the original; but to depart from established customs in religious matters is dangerous. I would also have abridged the proofs; but this would have raised a clamour among the people at large, that we had departed from the ancient faith. The printed copy belongs to the General Assembly, and accompanies my manuscript papers, together with the Scripture proofs on Church Government. May the great Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ, be in the midst of you, to direct and assist you in all your consultations and deliberations for His glory and the prosperity of Zion. So prays your brother in the Gospel of Christ. A. Mitchell.

The committee appointed to superintend the dispersion of the Confession of Faith, &c., of this church, made report. Whereupon,

Ordered, That said committee be dismissed, and that the final settlement of this concern be committed to the Treasurer of the Assembly.

In consequence of a representation from the Synod of New York,

*Resolved*, That the order of last year, which directs that in the Presbyterial reports the catalogue of the congregations should be made "according to seniority," be repealed.

Through the Committee of Overtures an appeal was brought in from a decision of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, by certain persons of the congregation of Morris-Town, in regard to the Rev. Aaron C. Collins, pastor of said congregation. Whereupon, the consideration of said appeal was made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*Saturday*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met, and constituted with prayer. Present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

According to order, the vote was taken for members to represent this Assembly in the General Association of the State of Connecticut, when it appeared that the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, of the Presbytery of New York, the Rev. John Woodhull, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. Aaron Woolworth, of the Presbytery of Long Island, were duly elected to that office: whereupon,

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish the aforesaid gentlemen with an attested copy of the minute of this proceeding, which shall be their sufficient warrant for appearing as the representatives of this Assembly in the General Association of Connecticut.

Ordered, That the expenses of these gentlemen in attending on the business assigned them be defrayed by this Assembly.

Agreeably to appointment, the committee from the Synod of Virginia read a narrative of the proceedings of that Synod in the appointment of missionaries to preach on the frontiers and among the vacant congregations within their bounds, and of the manner in which these missions have been carried into effect.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly took into consideration the subject of an appeal from the decision of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, by certain persons in the congregation of Morris-Town, in the case of Mr. Collins; and after hearing the parties fully,

Ordered, That Dr. Edwards, Dr King, and Dr. Muir be a committee to draw up and offer to the house, on Monday morning next, the draught of a minute, which may express, agreeably to their opinion, the determination which the Assembly ought to adopt relative to this subject.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday morning*, 9 *o'clock.*

The Assembly met, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

The committee appointed to lay before the Assembly on Monday morning a draught of a minute, expressive of their opinion relative to the determination which ought to be formed in regard to an appeal from the decision of the Synod of New York, in the case of Mr. Collins, by certain persons of the congregation of Morris-Town, offered to present their report, but the reception of it was deferred.

A petition was presented to the Assembly, through the Committee of Bills and Overtures, in behalf of the widow and children of the late Rev. John Carmichael, praying the Assembly to recommend it to the Corporation for the Relief of Poor and Distressed Presbyterian Ministers, their Widows and Children, to give Mrs. Carmichael relief: whereupon,

Ordered, That Dr. King, Messrs. Warford and Semple, and Dr. Samuel Kennedy, be a committee to consider this petition, and report thereon in the afternoon.

Mr. Christopher Johnson requested leave of absence for two days, which was granted.

The Assembly took into consideration the report of the committee on an appeal from a decision of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, in the case of Mr Aaron C. Collins, and after mature deliberation thereon, resolved as follows:

1. That the decision of the Synod, as founded on the evidence and the circumstances which were presented to them at the time, was proper, and is therefore confirmed.

2. That as new evidence, apparently of an important kind, has been alleged on this case since the decision of the Synod, it is proper that a new trial be instituted thereon.

3. That as the present case originated within the bounds of the Consociated Churches of the State of Connecticut, the Assembly do refer the whole case of Mr. Collins to the General Association of the said State, that they may direct to a full investigation; and it is

Ordered, That all the proceedings had upon this affair, both before the Presbytery of New York and the Synod of New York and New Jersey, together with all evidence and other documents that can be obtained relating thereto, be sent, by the delegates from the General Assembly, to the General Association. And,

4. That the Stated Clerk furnish to the said delegates an authentic extract, from the records of this house, of all the proceedings had upon this case before the General Assembly.*

The committee appointed to examine the narratives of the missionaries under the direction of the General Assembly last year, made their report, which was considered, and the Assembly, thereupon, determined, that the missionaries deserve approbation for the diligence with which their missions have been executed; that they are, also, happy to observe, that the measures pursued have, in several instances, been attended with manifest success; and that the missions under the direction of the Synod of Virginia appear to have been conducted with great judgment. The Assembly farther directed, for the present year, that three missionaries be appointed to itinerate among the frontier settlements, from the State of New York to the East branch of the Susquehanna inclusive, for four months, to commence the first day of June next, of whom one, at least, to be an ordained minister; that the sum of 33⅓ dollars per month, be allowed to each missionary for his services, including what he may receive from the people among whom he shall labour, and that fifty dollars, in part thereof, be advanced to each missionary before he sets out; that the missionaries be directed to report to the next General Assembly a faithful and particular narrative of the fulfilment of their mission, in which they will confine themselves to the objects specified in the order of 1790, observing great caution in what they offer respecting other denominations.

On inquiry, it appeared that the Synod of New York and New Jersey had recommended to the Assembly the Rev. Benjamin Judd, and the Rev. Ira Condict, as suitable persons to be employed as missionaries to the frontiers. It also appeared that Mr. William Spear, a probationer under the care of the Presbytery of Carlisle, was willing to spend two months in the character of a missionary. Whereupon the Assembly did, and do hereby appoint the above mentioned gentlemen to be their missionaries for the present year, and

---

* This case was one of alleged immorality.

Ordered, That they conform themselves to the instructions contained in the preceding minute, and receive the compensation there specified.

The following question was offered to the Assembly by the Stated Clerk, viz: Is it the opinion of the Assembly that the reports of the Synods should be entered, as heretofore, on the records of the house, or not? Whereupon it was determined that those reports should be entered as heretofore.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the following clause in a resolution passed by the General Assembly of 1792, respecting the reports of Presbyteries, be rescinded, viz: "The state of religious denominations among them."

The Synod of New York and New Jersey made the following report to the Assembly, viz:

"The Synod of New York and New Jersey report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, agreeably to their direction, in a letter dated May 25th, 1789, that the Synod consists of five Presbyteries—Albany, Dutchess, Long Island, New York, and New Brunswick.

1. That the Presbytery of Albany consists of eight ministers, five of whom have pastoral charges, and three have not charges. They have eight vacant congregations, able each to support a minister; six, in their present united state, able to support three ministers, and nine not yet able. They have two licentiates. One of their members was removed by death, July 14th, 1792, as appears by their report to Synod, No. 1.

2. That the Presbytery of Dutchess consists of six ministers, four of whom have pastoral charges, and two have not charges. They have two vacant congregations, able each to support a minister, and three not yet able, as appears by their report to Synod, No. 2.

3. That the Presbytery of Long Island consists of thirteen ministers, nine of whom have pastoral charges, and four have not charges. They have four vacant congregations, able each to support a minister. They have two licentiates under their care. One licentiate was removed by death, May 5th, 1792, as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 3.

4. That the Presbytery of New York consists of twenty-two ministers, nineteen of whom have pastoral charges. One has the care of the academy at Hackensack, and two have not charges. They have four vacant congregations, able each to support a minister, and four, in their present united state, are able to support two ministers, and two not yet able. They have five licentiates under their care, as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 4.

5. That the Presbytery of New Brunswick consists of sixteen ministers, thirteen of whom have pastoral charges; two are employed in the college at Princeton, and one has the charge of a Congregational church in Georgia. They have one vacant congregation able to support a minister; two, in their present united state, are able to support one minister, and four not yet able. They have one licentiate under their care. One of their members was removed by death, January 12th, 1792, as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 5.

JOHN RODGERS, *Stated Clerk.*

*New York, October 17th,* 1792."

The Synod of Philadelphia made the following report to the Assembly, viz:

"October 18th, 1792.

The Synod of Philadelphia report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, that the Synod consists of five Presbyteries, viz: Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, Lewes, and Baltimore.

1. Philadelphia Presbytery consists of fourteen ministers, thirteen of whom have charges. They have three licentiates. Six vacancies, two of which are able to support a minister, and four not able. They have received the Rev. John B. Smith, from the Presbytery of Hanover, and installed him pastor of the third Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia. They have ordained Mr. John Gemmil, and installed him pastor of the united congregations of Great Valley, Charleston, and West Chester; and Mr. Abijah Davis pastor of the church at Cape May. The Rev. John Symonton was removed by death, October 21st, 1791; and the Rev. James Grier, November 19th, 1791. All of which will appear by their report to the Synod, No. 1.

2. New Castle Presbytery consists of fourteen ministers, all of whom have charges. They have two licentiates. They have seven vacancies, three of which, in connection, can support a minister; two others, in connection, are able to support a minister; and the remaining two, connected, are also able. They have, during the past year, dismissed the Rev. James Munro, who informs them that he is settled in Nova Scotia. The Rev. Thomas Smith was removed by death, January 25th, 1792. They have dismissed William Paxton, one of their probationers, to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Carlisle. All of which will appear by their report to Synod, No. 2.

3. Carlisle Presbytery consists of twenty-five ministers, of whom twenty-one have pastoral charges, and four have not charges. Their vacancies are sixteen; two are able each to support a minister; three, in connection, are able; and also three others, united, are able. They have five licentiates. During the past year they have licensed Messrs. John Boyd, Samuel Mahon, and Isaac Grier; and dismissed Mr. Samuel Mahon to put himself under the care of Redstone Presbytery. They have received Mr. William Paxton from the Presbytery of New Castle, and ordained him as pastor of the united congregations of Lower Marsh Creek and Tom's Creek. The Rev. Hugh Vance was removed by death, December 31st, 1791; and the Rev. John Elder, July, 1792. All of which will appear by their report to the Synod, No. 3.

4. Baltimore Presbytery consists of eight ministers, six of whom have charges. They have three vacancies, none of which are able to support a minister. They have two candidates—which will appear by their report to the Synod, No. 4.

5. Lewes Presbytery; from which the Synod has received no report.

The Synod of Virginia made the following report to the Assembly, viz:

"The Synod of Virginia report, that they consist of four Presbyteries, viz: Hanover, Redstone, Lexington, and Transylvania, which stand as reported last year, except the following alterations:

1. The Presbytery of Hanover have dismissed two of their members; the Rev. John B. Smith, to join the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and the Rev. Nash Le Grand, to join the Presbytery of Lexington. They have also licensed and ordained Mr. James Turner, and have licensed William Calhoon and Moses Waddell, and received and licensed Mr. Williamson.

2. Of the Presbytery of Redstone the Rev. Joseph Smith has been removed by death, on the 14th of April, 1792. They have received the Rev. Jacob Jennings, from the Low Dutch Church, and the Rev. Thomas Cooley, from Great Britain, upon trials, until the next meeting of the Synod of Vir-

ginia. They have licensed two candidates, George Hill and William Swan. They have taken on trials three candidates, David Smith, Thomas Marquis, and Boyd Mercer.

3. The Presbytery of Lexington have received the Rev. Nash Le Grand, from Hanover Presbytery. They have received Mr. William Hill, a licentiate, from the same Presbytery, and ordained him to the whole work of the ministry in Charlestown and Hopewell. They have received Mr. Joseph Caldwell, a licentiate from the Presbytery of Carlisle. They have licensed to preach the everlasting gospel Messrs. Archibald Alexander, Benjamin Grigsby, Matthew Lyle, Thomas Poage, John Campbell, and Matthew Houston, and taken on trials Mr. Adam Freeman. The churches of Timber-Ridge and Oxford have formed a collegiate connection with the church of New Monmouth and Lexington. By an order of the General Assembly they have added to their care the churches of Carmel, Martinsburgh, Tuscarora, Back-Creek, Falling-Waters, Charlestown, and Hopewell.

4. From the Presbytery of Transylvania—No report.

William Graham, C. S. V."

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, the minutes of the last sitting were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, made report, and the book was approved to the 47th page.

The credentials of a certain Mr. Cooley, who had claimed communion as a Presbyterian minister with the Synod of Virginia, were, by order of that Synod, laid before the Assembly, for their opinion respecting the authenticity of said credentials. On examining the testimonials, the Assembly found so many instances of informality and appearances of forgery in them, and received such various accounts to the disadvantage of the character of Mr. Cooley, that they were unanimously of opinion that the said Mr. Cooley ought not to be received as a minister in good standing with this body.

A petition from the congregations of Tuscarora and Falling-Waters, praying to be reunited to the Presbytery of Carlisle, was laid before the Assembly and read. On the question, Shall the prayer of said petition be granted? it was determined in the affirmative, and the said churches were, accordingly, placed under the care and direction of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

Messrs. Ker and Rankin, the commissioners to this Assembly from the Presbytery of Lewes, in behalf and by the order of the said Presbytery, applied to the Assembly and remonstrated against a decision of the last Assembly, in the case of Mr. Hindman, in which they conceive the Presbytery of Lewes is virtually condemned, without their having had an opportunity of defending themselves, which they conceive they could readily have done.

After considerable discussion, it was

*Resolved*, As the sense of this house, that no man or body of men, agreeably to the constitution of this Church, ought to be condemned or censured, without having notice of the accusation against him or them, and notice given for trial. And, therefore, that if the General Assembly of last year meant, by the minute in question, to pass a censure on the Presbytery of Lewes, it was informal.

Dr. Muir had leave of absence during the rest of the sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer

*May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, the minutes of the last sitting were read.

The committee appointed on the petition of the executors of Mr. Carmichael, deceased, and the guardians of his children, reported, That in their opinion the General Assembly ought to use their influence with the corporation of the Widows' Fund in favour of the petitioners; and at the same time the committee presented a draught of a letter, to be sent by this Assembly to said corporation: whereupon,

Ordered, That the report of said committee be accepted, and that a copy of the offered letter, signed by the Moderator, be sent to the corporation of the Widows' Fund this afternoon.

The committee appointed to make an arrangement for supplying the pulpit of Mr. Condict, who has been appointed on a mission to the frontiers, made report, and thereupon the Assembly

Ordered, That the 2d Sabbath of June, Mr. Durham supply at Newton; the 3d Sabbath of June, Mr. W. Boyd at Hardwick; the 4th Sabbath of June, Mr. Peter Wilson at Shappennack; the 5th Sabbath of June, Mr. Rue at Newton, and that his pulpit be supplied the same day by Mr James Boyd: That the 1st Sabbath of July, Mr. Rue supply at Hardwick; the 2d Sabbath of July, Mr. Grant at Newton; the 3d Sabbath of July, Mr. Snowden at Hardwick; the 4th Sabbath of July, Mr. Hanna at Shappennack; the 1st Sabbath of August, Mr. Carle at Newton; the 2d Sabbath of August, Mr. Carle at Hardwick, and that his pulpit be supplied the same day by Mr. White: That the 3d Sabbath of August, Mr. L. Fordham supply at Newton; the 4th Sabbath of August, Mr. Joline at Hardwick; the 1st Sabbath of September, Mr. Peppard at Shappennack; the 2d Sabbath of September, Mr. Hilliard at Newton; the 3d Sabbath of September, Mr. N. Ker at Hardwick; the 4th Sabbath of September, Mr. Freeman at Newton; and the 5th Sabbath of the same month at Hardwick; and that Mr. King supply Mr. Freeman's pulpit on one of the Sabbaths during which he shall be absent.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts made their report, which was accepted and approved, and is as follows, viz:

"The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts report, that they have executed that duty, and find that there was a balance of 148*l*. 5*s*. 3*d*. in his hands at the settlement in May last; that he has since received 22*l*. 14*s*. 4*d*. for 107 books sold by him; 17*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*. of Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Armstrong for books in their hands; 116*l*. 9*s*. 11*d*. by collections for the support of missionaries; and of Mr. Austin, 18*l*. 5*s*. for money advanced to him; the whole amounting to the sum of 323*l*. 17*s*. and, farther, that he has paid 96*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*. to the missionaries, (including money paid to Mr. Austin,) 6*l*. 11*s*. 3*d*. to sundry persons, per order; and that there remains in his hands a balance of 220*l*. 8*s*. 3*d*. in favour of the General Assembly.

JOHN WOODHULL,
ELIJAH CLARK."

A remonstrance* was presented by the Synod of New York and New Jer-

---

* The following is the remonstrance referred to, and is here inserted to show the interpretation of the Constitution upon which the Synod acted.

*To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, to sit in Philadelphia on the third Thursday of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three, the memorial and remonstrance of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, respectfully showeth,*

That they conceive their rights to be affected by a censure which the Assembly sitting in Carlisle in May last passed on a resolution of the Synod, wherein the Synod declare, sey against a decision of the Assembly of last year, by which they determine that "it is unconstitutional for the Synod of New York and New Jersey to enact that, in future, candidates who have the gospel ministry in view shall be required to attend to the study of divinity at least three years before licensure."

Whereupon, it was moved, That this Assembly reconsider the above decision—which was agreed to. And whereas it appeared that there was no appointment made by the Synod of New York and New Jersey of any particular persons to advocate their cause, the Assembly, desirous to receive all the light they can on the subject,

*Resolved,* That every member of that Synod who may be present shall have liberty to offer what he may think necessary for or against the remonstrance; at the same time it was

*Resolved,* That this act of the Assembly ought not to be used as a precedent.

The members of the Synod who were present having been fully heard, the Assembly

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the remonstrance from the Synod of New York and New Jersey; when a motion was made and seconded, as follows, viz:

" *Resolved,* As the sense of this house, that the decision of the last General Assembly, which is the subject of complaint, ought not to be altered."

On the question to agree to the above motion, it was unanimously determined in the affirmative.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly of last year for correspondence with the General Association of the State of Connecticut, presented the following communication from said Association, which was ordered to be entered on the records of the house, viz:

" At a meeting of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, at

---

that, according to the existing constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, they are competent, within their own limits, to extend the period of studying theology, before a candidate shall be licensed to preach the gospel, beyond the term of two years.

The constitution recommends that that term be at least two years, throughout the whole body of the Presbyterian Church, subject to the jurisdiction of the Assembly. It is evidently a provision against a precipitate introduction of unqualified men into the holy office of the ministry, limited on one side, so that the period be not abridged, except in extraordinary cases, but left open on the other, so that it may be enlarged, when circumstances render it expedient, within the jurisdiction of any Presbytery or Synod of our Church. The Synod consider that the spirit of the regulation, as well as the obvious construction of language, vindicate their proceedings had on the subject.

Inasmuch, therefore, as there is no explicit regulation of the constitution, or of the Assembly, existing, by which the term of study, necessary for candidates before they shall be licensed to preach the gospel, is absolutely confined to two years, and they hope no such regulations ever will exist; the Synod do wish to maintain their right, and they remonstrate against the apprehended breach of their privileges in that censure passed by the Assembly, and ordered to be inserted on the Synod book.

That the God of all grace may ever direct the proceedings of the Assembly, and crown them with his blessing, is the humble and fervent prayer of your memorialists.

Signed by order of the Synod.

Andrew King, *Moderator.*

*New York, October 19th,* 1792."

the house of the Rev. Mark Leavenworth, in Waterbury, on the third Tuesday of June, A. D. 1792. The Association then proceeded to consider and did approve of the doings of the Committees from the Assembly of the Presbyterian churches in the United States and the General Association of this State.

Voted, That a committee of three be appointed to attend the next General Assembly of the Presbyterian churches. Rev. Messrs. Matthias Burnet, Jonathan Edwards, D. D., and Timothy Dwight, D. D., were chosen said committee.

Voted, That the same Committee of Correspondence be continued for the present year. That the Rev. Messrs. Nathaniel Taylor, Nathan Williams, Thomas W. Bray, Benjamin Trumbull, Eliphalet Williams, D. D., William Robinson, John Devotion, Levi Hart, Timothy Stone, Isaac Lewis, and David Ely, be a standing committee, to certify the good qualifications of such preachers as travel from the limits of the churches in this Association, into the limits of the Presbyterian churches.

True minutes of the doings of the General Association, respecting the General Assembly of the Presbyterian churches.

Test, BENJAMIN TRUMBULL, *Register.*"

On motion, Agreed, that Mr. Judd be appointed to itinerate as a missionary, for three months, to commence about the first of December next, in the Peninsula between Delaware Bay and the Chesapeake, and that he be allowed the same compensation for his services as for the northern mission, and make the like report to the next General Assembly. It was further agreed, that the Presbytery of Lewes shall recommend it to their churches to make a particular collection towards the support of this mission, in addition to those required by the standing order of the General Assembly.

On motion, Agreed, that Mr. John B. Smith, Dr. Green, and Isaac Snowden, Esq., be a committee, to select and superintend the publication of such parts of the minutes and proceedings of this Assembly as shall appear to be of general concern; and that they subjoin to the same a list of the churches settled and vacant within the bounds of this Assembly, so far as it can be obtained, and of the sums (if any) collected by each the preceding year for supplying the funds originated by the General Assembly, and the disbursement thereof. It was further agreed, that the committee publish an account of the missions of last year, and the prospects they afford of success, and close the same with an earnest address to the churches to be liberal and diligent in their contributions for promoting this important object.*

---

* Agreeably to the order of the General Assembly, the subscribers, members of the committee appointed for the purpose, take this opportunity to state, that the measures for diffusing the knowledge and influence of the gospel, adopted by the Assembly, and under their allowance, by the Synod of Virginia, have been crowned with much success. The missionaries employed by them, have been instrumental in exciting the attention of the people amongst whom they laboured to the important messages of the gospel—in laying the foundation of organized churches where there is a prospect of a large increase—in extending the blessingsof Christian instruction and knowledge to considerable numbers of people, who would otherwise have been destitute of the means of grace—in strengthening and increasing the Presbyterian Church, as well as preserving its members from the seduction of those who might wish to pervert them—and, generally, in advancing Christ's kingdom in the world.

The utility of the objects which the Assembly have in contemplation, cannot be doubted; the prospects of success as to their attainment, are pleasing; and the continuance of these pious and well directed measures, an event much to be desired. Surely, therefore, all the benevolent and pious in our communion, will cheerfully contribute their aid to promote the plans which have been so judiciously formed, and so faithfully executed. They who love their Saviour will rejoice to assist in bringing others to the knowledge of him. They who feel the value of the gospel and plentifully enjoy its

Messrs. Hughes, Kennedy, and Condict had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met and constituted with prayer. Members present as before specified.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

Dr. Rodgers requested that his protest against the decision of the Assembly, relative to the remonstrance from the Synod of New York and New Jersey, might be entered on the minutes, which was not granted.

The committee appointed by the Assembly of 1791, and continued by that of 1792, for the purpose of inquiring into the state of the funds in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, for the education of poor and pious youth, reported as follows:

"The only additional information which your committee have been able to obtain on the subject of their appointment, is contained in certain resolutions of the Board, an attested copy of which your committee have the honour to inclose.

Signed by order. NATH. IRWIN, *Chairman.*"

*Philadelphia, May* 21st, 1793."

The resolutions referred to in the above report are as follows, viz:

"On the third question submitted by the committee appointed to settle the College accounts, the Board, in order to determine the principle, agreed to decide on the following question, viz:

Is this Board, by the intention of the donors, under any obligations to take any direction or advice from the Synod of New York or their successors, in the disposal of the money obtained by Messrs. Tennent and Davies in the Island of Great Britain?

This question was determined in the negative. But on motion,

*Resolved*, That the Corporation will cheerfully receive, annually, at their session in September, and pay all due respect to, any recommendation from

---

institutions, will be excited by the most tender compassion for their brethren who are destitute of these blessings. They who have been rescued from the darkness and wretchedness of a state of sin, will pity others who are perishing in that state, insensible of their danger, and that, perhaps, for the want of instruction. They who have received mercy will desire to testify their gratitude to heaven, by the most vigorous efforts to promote the salvation of others. They who, as patriotic citizens, regard the prosperity of their country, will be anxious to diffuse the principles of the gospel, so favourable to that prosperity, through the numerous, recent, and increasing settlements upon our frontiers. And, finally, they who are attached to our Church in which they have been educated, sensible of the advantages resulting from its purity and simplicity in doctrine, worship, and discipline, its liberal and republican constitution, and its early attention to the instruction and manners of its members, will surely manifest a laudable ardour to extend the blessings of a connection with her to as many as possible. It is therefore expected, that the most generous contributions will be made, by all the churches under the care of the Assembly, to encourage the Mission. It is expected that the ministers will heartily concur in these measures, and be faithful and earnest in exhorting the people of their respective charges to assist in carrying them into the most extensive effect. And it is further expected that young candidates for the ministry will cheerfully and zealously devote themselves to the service—that they will gladly avail themselves of the opportunity which presents itself to serve as Evangelists in the cause of Christ, and preach his gospel through distant settlements—and that they will not be sparing of their labour and most strenuous exertions in a service so honourable and important.

Signed by order of the General Assembly. JOHN B. SMITH.
ASHBEL GREEN.

N. B.—The ministers are desired to read the extracts and the preceding address in their respective churches.

the General Assembly, or committee of the General Assembly appointed for that purpose, with regard to objects proper to be received on the fund raised by that donation.

*Resolved*, That as soon as the committee on the public funds shall report a state of moneys involved in the above resolution, and which shall be approved of by the Board, that a clerk will cause a copy thereof to be transmitted to the committee of the General Assembly.

Ordered, That a copy of the foregoing minutes be made out by the clerk, and furnished the committee of the General Assembly.

Dr. Green dissented from the opinion of the Board on the above question, and requested that his dissent may be entered on the minutes, which was granted.

Extract from the minutes. SAMUEL S. SMITH, *Clerk*."

On hearing the foregoing communications, the Assembly, on motion, and after mature discussion,

*Resolved*, As the opinion of this house, that the disposal of the interest of the money deposited in the treasury of the College of New Jersey, by Mr. Gilbert Tennent and Mr. Samuel Davies, for the purposes of educating pious youth, and for the support of an Indian missionary, was originally subject to the order of the Synod of New York, and is, at present, under the control and direction of the General Assembly.

And agreed, That Messrs. Nathaniel Irwin, John B. Smith, John Gemmil, Gilbert Snowden, and William Boyd, be a committee, to meet the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, at their sessions in September next, in order to confer with the Board, in a friendly manner, on the subject of the foregoing resolve; and endeavour, in behalf of this Assembly, to come to an amicable agreement with the Trustees, respecting the disposal of the moneys in question, consistently with said resolve.

A memorial, signed Warner Mifflin, was handed from Mr. James Pemberton, under cover, to the Moderator, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.*

On motion,

Ordered, That the records of the General Synod of the year 1787, on the subject of slavery, be published among the extracts to be printed of the proceedings of this Assembly.

Adjourned till half past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, the minutes of the last sitting were read.

On motion, Agreed by two-thirds of the members, that no publication of the list of churches, and collections, and disbursements be made this year, a former order of these sessions notwithstanding.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay the janitor 4*l*. 8*s*. 8*d*., for his services, and the other incidental expenses of this Assembly. Also 25 dollars to the Stated Clerk, as a compensation for his services for the present year.

Ordered, that Mr. Samuel S. Smith supply the pulpit of Mr. Woodhull on the fourth Sabbath of June, when he will be attending the General Association of the State of Connecticut, agreeably to the order of this Assembly.

Ordered, That the next General Assembly of this church be held in the

---

* This memorial, from one of the Society of Friends, related to the subject of slavery.

Second Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May, 1794, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, after making known the above order, did then dissolve the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution, and

Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1793.

### Synod of New York and New Jersey.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany, | 5 | 3 | 2 | 17 |
| Dutchess, | 4 | 2 | | 5 |
| Long Island, | 9 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| New York, | 19 | 3 | 5 | 10 |
| New Brunswick, | 13 | 3 | 1 | 7* |
| Synod of Philadelphia. | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 13 | 1 | 3 | 6† |
| New Castle, | 14 | | 2 | 7‡ |
| Carlisle, | 21 | 4 | 5 | 16§ |
| Baltimore, | 6 | 2 | | 3 |
| Lewes. No report. | | | | |
| Synod of Virginia. | | | | |
| Hanover, | 9 | | 4 | 8 |
| Redstone, | 13 | | 2 | 24‖ |
| Lexington, | 12 | | 8 | 13 |
| Transylvania. No report. | | | | |
| Synod of the Carolinas. | | | | |
| No report. | | | | |
| Total, | 138 | 22 | 34 | 120 |

* Rev. Philip Stockton died January 12th, 1793.

† Rev. John Symonton died October 21st, 1791. Rev. James Grier died November 19th, 1791.

‡ Rev. Thomas Smith died January 25th, 1792.

§ Rev. Hugh Vance died December 31st, 1791. Rev. John Elder died July, 1792.

‖ Rev. Joseph Smith died April 14th, 1792.

◆

## 1794.

Philadelphia, *May* 15*th*, 1794.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to appointment, in the Second Presbyterian church, in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened with a sermon from the Rev. James Latta, the Moderator of last year, from 1 Thess. v. 12 and 13: "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them who labour among you and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you: and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

Agreeably to the order of the constitution, the commissions of the members present were publicly read, and being found sufficiently coincident with the prescribed form, were approved and accepted by the Assembly.

Ordered, That these commissions be delivered to the Stated Clerk, and that he prepare the usual list of the members, to be laid before the Assembly in the afternoon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted with prayer.

The Stated Clerk, according to order, laid before the Assembly a list of the commissioners who were present at the opening of the Assembly.

Ordered, That it be entered on the minutes as follows, viz:

1. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—*Minister*—George Faitoute. *Elders*—None.
2. PRESBYTERY OF DUTCHESS—None.
3. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Drs. John Rodgers and Alexander McWhorter, and Messrs. Jedediah Chapman and Asa Hillyer. *Elders*—Messrs. Jonas Philips and Foster Horton.
4. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—*Minister*—Mr. John McDonald. *Elders*—None.
5. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—Dr. John Witherspoon, and Messrs. Joseph Clark and Thomas Grant. *Elder*—Mr. Edmund Bainbridge.
6. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Messrs. William M. Tennent, John B. Smith, and Andrew Hunter. *Elders*—Messrs. Elijah Clark, David Cloyd, and Isaac Snowden.
7. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Ministers*—Messrs. James Latta and Nathan Grier. *Elder*—Mr. David Denny.
8. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Messrs. Samuel Waugh, James Snodgrass, and John Black. *Elders*—None.
9. PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—None.
10. PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—*Minister*—Mr. Samuel McMasters. *Elders*—None.
11. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—*Ministers*—Messrs. John McPherrin and James Dunlap. *Elders*—None.
12. PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—*Minister*—Mr. John McMillan. *Elder*—Mr. James Edgar.
13. PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—None.
14. PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—*Ministers*—Messrs. Samuel Houston and William Wilson. *Elder*—Mr. John Campbell.
15. PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—*Minister*—Mr. James Hall. *Elders*—None.
16. PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—None.
17. PRESBYTERY OF ABINGDON—None.
18. PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—None.

Mr. John Murray, ruling elder and commissioner from the Presbytery of New York, and Mr. William Mitchell, ruling elder and commissioner from the Presbytery of Carlisle, offered their commissions to the Assembly, which were read and accepted.

The Rev. Robert Cathcart, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Carlisle, and the Rev. William McKee, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Lewes, presented their commissions to the Assembly, which were read and accepted.

The Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, and the Rev. Dr. McWhorter was elected to that office.

On taking the votes for clerks of the Assembly, it appeared that the Rev. Andrew Hunter, and John McDonald were duly chosen, and they were accordingly declared to be the Clerks of this Assembly.

The Rev. Mr. Nathan Taylor and the Rev. Mr. Nathan Perkins appeared in the Assembly, and produced a certificate from the General Association of the State of Connecticut, whereby it appeared that these gentlemen, with the Rev. Dr. Isaac Lewes, were appointed to represent said Association in this

Assembly. Whereupon Mr. Taylor and Mr. Perkins were admitted to their seats.

Mr. William Brown, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Carlisle, was admitted to a seat in the Assembly, notwithstanding the informality of his appearing without a commission; it being testified by the clerk and the other members of said Presbytery, that he was duly appointed and that his commission had been made out and delivered to him.

The following members were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, viz: Messrs. Faitoute, Hillyer, Philips, Grant, Bainbridge, Tennent, Cloyd, Grier, Denny, Black, Mitchell, McMasters, Dunlap, Houston, Campbell, Hall, McMillan, Edgar.

Ordered, That this committee meet in this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterward on their own adjournments.

By order, The minutes of last year's Assembly were read.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That every letter or communication addressed to the Moderator, be opened and read by him, and at his discretion, be either communicated immediately to the Assembly for their decision, or to the Committee of Overtures to be by them brought before the house in the ordinary channel.

A letter from a committee of a convention of the Congregational ministers in the State of Massachusetts, directed to the Moderator, was received and read. On motion,

Ordered, That it be entered on the minutes. It is as follows, viz:

" *To the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.*

Rev. Sir—We are appointed a committee by the convention of the Congregational ministers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to inform you that at their last meeting they passed the following vote, viz: 'That it be proposed to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, and the General Association in Connecticut, not to receive or countenance any candidate from us who does not bring credentials from a regular body among us known to them; assuring them that we will observe the same rule with respect to candidates from them, and informing them that we shall be glad to hear from them upon all subjects which relate to the interests of our common christianity, and will communicate every information upon such subjects as may tend to promote the interests of religion.'

We are also directed to inform you, that measures are taking to collect information with respect to the present state of our churches, which we shall take the earliest opportunity to transmit to the General Assembly.

You will please to communicate the above to the General Assembly, and we shall be happy to receive an answer by the earliest opportunity upon this interesting subject.

We are, Rev. Sir, in the name and behalf of the Congregational ministers of Massachusetts, your brethren in the faith and fellowship of the gospel,

JOSEPH WILLARD, JOSEPH ECKLEY,
PETER THATCHER, JEDEDIAH MORSE.
DAVID TAPPAN,

*Boston, May 8th,* 1794."

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning, to meet in the Third Presbyterian church. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 16*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

The following gentlemen appeared and produced their commissions, which were read, and they were admitted to their seats, viz: Rev. Dr. Alison, from the Presbytery of Baltimore; Rev. Dr. Cooper, from the Presbytery of Carlisle; and Dr. Moses Scott, elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

By order, the minutes of the last sitting were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the letter from a committee of the Convention of the Congregational ministers of the State of Massachusetts. Whereupon, it was agreed that a committee be appointed to prepare a draught of an answer to said letter, and report it to this house as soon as convenient. Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Alison, and Mr. Taylor, were the committee appointed for this purpose.

Messrs. Latta and Wilson were appointed a committee to examine the Synod book of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

Dr. Alison, Mr. Smith, and Dr. Scott, were appointed a committee to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the General Assembly, and to make report as soon as convenient.

Ordered, That the reports and the papers respecting the missions of last year to the frontier settlements, be laid before the Assembly in the afternoon.

An inquiry was instituted respecting the progress which has been made by the different Presbyteries, under the superintendence of the General Assembly, in regard to materials for a history of the Presbyterian Church, when it appeared that a very particular attention had been paid to that business by the Presbyteries in general, but that the Presbyteries of Philadelphia and New York only have completed the expected narratives.

The Assembly having expressed their disappointment in not having obtained from all the Presbyteries historical sketches of their congregations, did, and do hereby renew their order on this subject, frequently repeated, and strictly enjoin on every Presbytery still deficient, to collect and complete the materials required, and to transmit the same to the Stated Clerk at or before the next General Assembly.

The commissioners delegated by the General Assembly last year, to the General Association of Connecticut, reported an account of their diligent attention to the subjects committed to them, which the Assembly accepted with approbation.

The Moderator, Dr. Alexander McWhorter, and Mr. Jedediah Chapman, of the Presbytery of New York; and Mr. Joseph Clark, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, were appointed delegates from this General Assembly to meet with the next General Association of Connecticut, and were ordered to give an account of their diligence in that business to the next General Assembly. Whereupon,

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish the aforesaid gentlemen with an attested copy of the minute of this proceeding, which shall be their sufficient warrant for appearing as the representatives of this Assembly in the General Association of Connecticut.

Ordered, That one dollar per day be paid out of the funds of the Assembly to each commissioner, during the time that he shall necessarily be employed on that business.

On motion, Ordered, That the delegates appointed from the General Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, propose to the Association, as an amendment to the articles of intercourse agreed upon between the aforesaid bodies, that the delegates from these bodies respectively, shall have a right, not only to sit and deliberate, but also to vote in all questions which may be determined by either of them; and to communicate the result of their proposal to the next General Assembly.

On inquiry, it was found that no communication had taken place during the last year between the committees of correspondence of the General Assembly and the General Association of Connecticut.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

The commissions of the Rev. Benjamin Judd, a delegate from the Presbytery of Dutchess, and Dr. Nesbit from the Presbytery of Carlisle, were read and approved; on which they were admitted to their seats.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

The papers and narratives of the missionaries employed last year by the General Assembly, and by the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas, were, agreeably to order, laid before the Assembly and read. Whereupon,

Ordered, That Dr. Alison and Mr. Smith be a committee to prepare a minute expressive of the approbation of the Assembly of the attention and care with which their missions have been executed.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Smith, Dr. Green, and Mr. Snowden, be a committee to select and prepare such parts of the proceedings of the General Assembly during their present sitting, as they shall judge proper, to be printed for the information of the churches under their care, to the number of one thousand copies; and that they superintend the publication and dispersion of the same.

Mr. Hall, Mr. Clark, and Mr. McDonald, were appointed a committee, to prepare an address to be circulated amongst the settlements visited by the missionaries appointed by the General Assembly, and the Synods under their care.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 17*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

The commission of Mr. Job Allen, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New York, was read and approved, on which he was admitted a member of the Assembly.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

Ordered, That the materials for a history of the Presbyterian Church, which have been or shall be collected, be delivered to the Stated Clerk, in order to be deposited among the records of the General Assembly.

The Committee of Overtures reported three papers, which were read, and ordered to be laid on the table for future consideration.

The Presbytery of Lewes being called upon to give an account of the collection, which the Assembly of last year had ordered them to make for the support of Mr. Judd's mission into the Peninsula, informed the Assembly that they had made no collection, for reasons which were sustained.

On motion, It was agreed that the expenses of a mission to the frontiers of New York, performed by Mr. Judd, by appointment of the Synod of New York and New Jersey at their meeting in October last, in consequence of several petitions of the inhabitants of those remote settlements requesting such an appointment, shall be defrayed by the Assembly, at the same rate which they allowed to their other missionaries.

The committee appointed to confer with the trustees of New Jersey College respecting the disposal of the interest of certain funds in their hands, delivered the following report, viz:

"The committee of the General Assembly was heard by the Trustees, and after mature deliberation it was moved that the Board rescind their resolution of April last, which is expressed in the following words, viz: On the question submitted by the committee appointed to settle the College accounts, the Board, in order to determine the principle, agreed to decide on the following question, viz: Is this Board, by the intention of the donors, under any obligation to take any direction or advice from the Synod of New York or their successors, in the disposal of the moneys obtained by Messrs. Tennent and Davies in the Island of Great Britain? Negatived.

The vote being taken on the above motion, it was resolved that this Board do rescind the above resolution.

Extracted from the minutes of the Board of Trustees of the College of New Jersey, held at Nassau Hall, April 9th, 1794.

Samuel S. Smith, *Clerk of the Board.*"

Ordered, That the committee for collecting and printing the extracts of the proceedings of the General Assembly, publish a distinct list of the ministers and churches, settled and vacant, within the bounds of this Assembly, as far as can be obtained; and also of the sums of money, if any, collected by such Presbytery or congregation for the funds of the General Assembly, together with the disbursements that have been made. It was moreover enjoined on the committee that they publish the intention of this Assembly, to annex to every individual congregation, the sums collected by them respectively in all their future lists, in order that the Presbyteries govern themselves accordingly in their annual reports.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk provide a copy of the printed extracts of late Synod's and of the Assembly's votes and proceedings, each year from the year 1797, and that he preserve them for the use of the Assembly; that he regularly add to them such as may be printed in future; that care be taken to have them printed on paper of the same size with those already published, and that he prepare an accurate index to these printed extracts, and to the written records of the Assembly.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey, and the Synod of Virginia, delivered their annual reports, which were accepted, and are as follows, viz:

The Synod of New York and New Jersey, agreeably to order, report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, that the Synod consists of five Presbyteries, viz: Albany, Dutchess, Long Island, New York and New Brunswick.

1. That the Presbytery of Albany consists of eight ministers, all of whom have charges. They have twenty-one congregations under their care, ten of which are able, each to support a minister; and eleven are not yet able. That one of their members had been removed by death, December 6th, 1792. That they have one licentiate under their care, as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 1.

2. That the Presbytery of Dutchess consists of four ministers; two of which have charges, and two have not charges. They have three vacant congregations, each able to support a minister. They have one licentiate under their care; and one of their members has been removed by death, April 8th, 1793; as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 2.

3. That the Presbytery of New York consists of twenty-three ministers; twenty of whom have charges; one has the care of the Academy at Hackensack, and two have not charges. They have two vacant congregations, each able to support a minister; and six in their present united capacity, able to support three ministers; and three not yet able. They have three licentiates under their care. One of their members was removed by death, May 14th, 1793, and one was deposed October 3d, 1793; as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 3.

4. That the Presbytery of New Brunswick consists of seventeen ministers; fifteen of whom have charges; one is President, and one Vice-President of the College of New Jersey. They have one vacant congregation able to support a minister; and two, united, are able to support one minister; and three not able. They have two licentiates under their care, as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 4.

The Presbytery of Long Island made no report to the Synod.

JOHN RODGERS, *Stated Clerk of the Synod.*

*October* 14th, 1793.

*September*, 1793.

The Synod of Virginia report, That they consist of four Presbyteries, viz: the Presbytery of Hanover, of Redstone, of Lexington, and of Transylvania.

1. That the Presbytery of Hanover consists of eight ordained ministers, viz: the Rev. James Waddel, D. D., William Irvine, James Mitchel, John D. Blair, Archibald M. Roberts, Drury Lacy, William Mahon, and James Turner, who are all regularly settled, except Messrs. Waddel, Irvine, and M. Roberts.

That they have four licentiates, Messrs. Carey, Allen, William Calhoun, and Samuel Brown, who are under the direction of the Commission of Synod, and Mr. William Williamson, who is under the care of the Presbytery.

They report that the Rev. John Todd departed this life July 27th, 1793. That the state of the vacant churches under the care of the said Presbytery, is nearly the same as was reported last year.

2. The Synod report, that the Presbytery of Redstone consists of twelve ordained ministers, viz: the Rev. James Finlay, John Clark, John McMillan, James Power, James Dunlap, Jacob Jennings, Joseph Patterson, James Hughes, John Bryce, John McPherrin, Samuel Porter, and George Hill; all of whom have regular charges.

The Synod report, that the Rev. Thaddeus Dodd was removed by death on the 20th of May, 1793. That said Presbytery has received Mr. Samuel Mahon, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Carlisle, and that they have four licentiates under their care, viz: Messrs. William Swan, David Smith, Thomas Marquis, and Boyd Mercer. That they have dismissed Mr. Robert Marshall, one of their licentiates, to join the Presbytery of Transylvania, that the number of congregations under their care is forty-eight.

3. The Synod report, that the Presbytery of Lexington consists of thirteen ordained ministers, viz: the Rev. John Brown, William Graham, Archibald Scott, Edward Crawford, John Montgomery, Benjamin Erwin, William Wilson, Moses Hoge, John McCue, Samuel Houston, Nash Le Grand, William Hill, and John P. Campbell, all regularly settled, except Mr. Crawford. That they have seven licentiates, viz: Mr. John Lyle and Mr. Thomas Poage, who are under the care of the Presbytery; and Messrs. Archibald Alexander, Matthew Lyle, Benjamin Grigsby, Matthew Houston and Adam Freeman, who are under the direction of the Commission of the Synod. That said Presbytery has one candidate under a course of trials, viz: Mr. Samuel Ronnols; that their vacant churches are nearly in the same condition as reported last year.

4. The Synod report, that the Presbytery of Transylvania has never yet made any reports to them.

5. The Synod further report, that the Presbytery of Redstone is divided into two Presbyteries, one bearing the former name of Redstone, and the other the name of Ohio, and consisting of the Rev. Messrs. John Clark, John McMillan, Joseph Patterson, James Hughes, and John Bryce. The Monongahela river is the division between said Presbyteries.

The Synod of Philadelphia report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, that the Synod conists of five Presbyteries.

1. The Presbytery of Philadelphia, consisting of fourteen ministers, thirteen of whom have pastoral charges. They have six vacancies, two of which are each able to support a minister, the other four are not able. They have one licentiate under their care; all of which appears more particularly by the report to the Synod, No. I.

2. The Presbytery of New Castle, consisting of fourteen ministers, all of whom have pastoral charges. They have seven vacancies, five of which are able each to support a minister, and the other two are able in conjunction to maintain a pastor. They have three licentiates under their care; all of which appears more specially by their report to the Synod, No. II.

3. The Presbytery of Carlisle, whereof the number of ministers, pastoral charges, and vacancies are the same as stated in their last report. They have received Messrs. Robert Cathcart and Nathaniel Snowden, candidates from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and Mr. Wiley from the Presbytery of New Castle, who have accepted calls in their bounds. See their report to Synod, No. III.

4. The Presbytery of Lewes, consisting of seven ministers, all of whom have pastoral charges. They have one vacancy able to support a minister; two other vacancies able in conjunction to support a pastor, and one other vacancy not able. All of which appears more particularly by their report to Synod, No. IV.

5. The Presbytery of Baltimore, consisting of the same number of ministers as reported to the last Synod. The Rev. James Hunt having been removed by death, and Mr. Caleb Johnston received and ordained pastor of a church in their bounds. They have two licentiates under their care. Vid. their report to the Synod, No. V. By order of Synod, August 30th, 1793,

NATHANIEL IRWIN, *Stated Clerk.*

The Synod of the Carolinas made no report, and as it appears from the records of the General Assembly that the Presbyteries of Abingdon and South Carolina, within the bounds of that Synod and under its jurisdiction, had not sent commissioners to the General Assembly for several years past, and that the former of those Presbyteries had not made any report of their state to their Synod for a considerable time; it was

*Resolved*, that the said Synod be required to take proper measures to send up their reports annually to the General Assembly, and to inform the said Presbyteries that a punctual representation from them to the superior judicatories is expected and required by the Assembly.

Dr. Alison from the committee appointed to prepare a minute which should express the approbation of the Assembly of the manner in which the missionaries had discharged their duty during the last year, reported, "That the Assembly heard with approbation and pleasure the narratives of the missionaries employed by them, and by the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas, concerning the labours of those under their direction. Some it appeared were effectually impressed with a true sense of religion through their means. Many were induced to join in forming religious societies, and a general desire was expressed to enjoy the preaching of the gospel where negligence and irreligion had considerably prevailed; nor could there remain any doubt of important advantages in future from a prosecution of the plan heretofore pursued. The rising generation may, in consequence hereof, be more carefully educated and better instructed in the principles of Christianity, civil order may be promoted, the political virtues enforced, the interests of Christ's kingdom advanced, and immortal beings prepared for eternal happiness.

On these accounts a renewed application to the churches for their generous contributions to support similar missions in future was held, by the Assembly, to be indispensable, and they were assured whenever the design contemplated should be accomplished, or not answered in a sufficient degree, such application to them would cease. The missionaries for the present year, the committee thought, should receive direction to return the same way they went, that the places they had visited in going out, might be apprized of the times of their preaching as they came in; to accomplish which more effectually they were instructed to advise with their brethren who have been already employed in the same service."

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Rev. John B. Smith, Mr. Nathaniel Irwin, and Dr. Meres Scott, be a committee to meet the Trustees of the College of New Jersey at their sessions in September next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, on the day after commencement, in order to dispose of the interest of the money collected by Messrs. Tennent and Davies in Great Britain for the education of pious youth, and of all other sums of money in the hands of the said Trustees for similar purposes, and to report at the next meeting of the General Assembly.

The Synod book of New York and New Jersey was revised as far as page 56, and was approved.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 19*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, and was constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

Mr. Faitoute and Mr. Perkins were appointed a committee to examine the Synod book of the Synod of Philadelphia, and report as soon as convenient.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas be ordered to subjoin to their annual Synodical reports, an account of their collections and disbursements of money for the missionaries which they shall have employed.

The committee appointed to select and arrange Scripture texts in support of the Articles of the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, &c., reported, that they had accomplished that business, and were prepared to submit the execution of it to the Assembly.

On motion, it was agreed to defer the consideration of that subject till the afternoon.

Dr. Rodgers was appointed to supply Dr. McWhorter's pulpit on the 3d Sabbath of June, and Mr. Elmer, to supply Mr. Chapman's on the 4th Sabbath of June, and Dr. Smith to supply Mr. Clark's on the 3d Sabbath of June, during their attendance on the General Association of Connecticut.

Ordered, That the expenses of the delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, be paid by the Treasurer out of the funds of the General Assembly.

A representation and petition of the congregation of Pittsburgh requesting to be separated from the Presbytery of Redstone, and to be annexed to the Presbytery of Carlisle, being one of the papers brought before the Assembly through the Committee of Overtures, was taken under consideration. After some time spent on the subject, the farther discussion of it was postponed till the afternoon.

An overture brought into the Assembly, from the Committee of Overtures, suggesting the propriety of placing the missionaries, at present appointed by the General Assembly, under the direction of the Synods of New York and New Jersey, and of Philadelphia, was read and considered; whereupon

*Resolved*, That they remain as heretofore under the direction of the General Assembly.

A letter from Dr. McCorkle stating some difficulties which still existed in his mind, respecting the admission of members into the communion of the church who hold the doctrine of universal redemption, being one of the papers laid on the table by the Committee of Overtures, was again read, and after some consideration it was agreed to defer its final issue until Tuesday morning.

On the subject of missions it was agreed that Mr. Cunningham Sample be appointed to itinerate from this time till the first of August on the western shore of Maryland, and that Mr. Benjamin Judd and Mr. Sample be appointed to itinerate from the first of August, for the space of two months and a half, on the waters of the Susquehanna.

On motion *Resolved*, That the Presbytery of New Castle proceed, with all convenient speed, to ordain Mr. Robert Smith, one of their licentiates, to the work of the gospel ministry; and also that the Presbytery of Baltimore proceed to ordain either Mr. Cunningham Sample, or Mr. Samuel Martin, licentiates under their care, to the same office; provided that they, or either of them, shall accept of the appointment of missions from this Assembly, and the respective Presbyteries be satisfied with their trials for ordination.

Mr. Robert Smith was appointed a missionary to the western and northern frontiers of the state of New York, for the space of six months, to commence on the first of October; provided he shall be ordained by the Presbytery of New Castle for that purpose.

Ordered, That the licentiate, whoever he shall be that the Presbytery of Baltimore shall ordain, be appointed a missionary among the inhabitants of the western shore of Maryland, before the next meeting of the General Assembly.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met and was constituted with prayer. Members present as before, except Mr. Judd, who had leave of absence during the session of the afternoon.

The further consideration of the representation and petition from Pittsburgh was resumed, when a motion having been made that the prayer of the petition should be granted, after a full discussion of the subject, it was decided in the negative.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Black, be a committee to draught a letter to the congregation of Pittsburgh, and another to the Presbytery of Redstone, in consequence of the preceding discussion, and to report as soon as convenient.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 20*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met, and was constituted with prayer. Members present as before, except Mr. Grant and Mr. Bainbridge, who had leave of absence during the remaining sittings of the Assembly.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

The consideration of Dr. McCorkle's letter was resumed. On the first proposition in the letter, requesting a reconsideration of the sentence of the General Assembly respecting the doctrine of universal salvation, passed at Carlisle in 1792, the Assembly unanimously agreed to adhere to the aforesaid decision. On the second part of the letter relating to two questions, respecting terms of communion, and the doctrine of universal redemption, conceived in the following words, viz:

"1st. Whether, on scriptural ground, any doctrine can be made a term that is not essential—essential, as I understand it, to a belief of the truth of Christianity?"

"2d. Whether the doctrine of universal redemption, be such a doctrine or not?"

The Assembly agreed that these questions are proposed in such ambiguous terms, that it is impossible to discuss them with precision; but refer him to their Confession of Faith, and Form of Government and Discipline, for a solution of any difficulties which may occur to his mind on the subject of Christian communion.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the missionaries ordered to itinerate on the frontiers, be allowed for their services and expenses at the rate of forty dollars per month; that the Treasurer pay in advance, to each of them, the sum of sixty dollars, and that they account to the Assembly for all the moneys which they shall receive from the different congregations on their tour.

The committee appointed to draught an answer to the letter from the committee of the convention of Massachusetts' ministers, reported a draught in the following words, viz:

"*Philadelphia, May 20th*, 1794.

Rev. Gentlemen—Your communication of the 8th instant, in the name and behalf of the Congregational ministers in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, has been received, and we embrace the earliest opportunity to express our hearty approbation of your proposal to preserve the churches committed to our care, respectively, from being visited, and consequently injured, by deceivers, under the appearance of regular ministers. To prevent the evil as much as possible, we would further propose, that no minister or preacher from either, be received or encouraged by the other, unless he produce, besides recent testimonials from regularly constituted authorities, private letters, or some corroborating testimony in his favour, not so capable of being forged. The form of the first being known, an artful man may, without much difficulty, fabricate a certificate in his own behalf, and have it apparently authenticated in due order, with the assistance of an accomplice or two, while he will hardly venture to pass his own contrivance for the last; at least he will very seldom venture it with success. This method has been practised by us for a considerable time, in receiving clerical characters from Europe; it has been found the most effectual to prevent imposition, and now appears equally necessary to be observed in the admission of those who may come from distant parts of our own nation. And though no correspondence may have existed between any persons residing in the district from which, and to which, a regular minister or preacher proposes travelling, sufficient intercourse prevails between intermediate places, to admit of his being regularly handed, and sufficiently recommended, till he reach the object of his destination.

In guarding against the mischief under consideration, the General Association of Connecticut and this General Assembly, by joint agreement, appoint, and mutually communicate the names of a certain number of members in each body, most conveniently situated, for the purpose of authenticating the testimonials of those who pass into each other's bounds, one of whose names at least must appear in every certificate. This we just mention, and leave it with you to judge whether a similar proceeding would be advisable or necessary between you and us.

Notwithstanding the pains used to bring up young men for the work of the ministry, so rapid is population among us, that our vacancies increase much faster than our ministers, and it may truly be said that the harvest is great but the labourers comparatively few. Our attention has for some time been directed towards collecting materials for a history of the Presbyterian Church through the United States; in the prosecution of which some things may perhaps occur worthy of being communicated; and we shall, on all occasions, show ourselves disposed to perform whatever may seem expedient to promote a more intimate connection between the Congregational Churches of Massachusetts and ours, whose interests are so closely united; to testify our respect for their characters, and to evidence sincere wishes for their prosperity. We are, gentlemen, with unfeigned regard and esteem, your affectionate brethren, in one common Lord.

Signed by order. ALEXANDER MCWHORTER, *Moderator.*
Rev. JOS. WILLARD, Rev. DR. JOS. ECKLEY,
" PETER THATCHER, " JEDEDIAH MORSE,
" DAVID TAPPAN."

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Albany endeavour to appoint a missionary for three or four months to the northern and western frontiers of the State of New York, and that the Assembly defray the expenses attending the said mission.

The following overture was introduced by the Committee of Overtures, viz:

That the General Assembly appoint a committee to examine Mr. Mahon on his experimental religion, in order to his ordination. Also, that the committee consist of two members belonging to Redstone, two to Carlisle, and at least three belonging to some other Presbyteries of the General Assembly.

When, after a motion having been made to adopt the overture, and a full discussion, it was decided in the negative.

The committee appointed to draught letters to the congregation of Pittsburgh and the Presbytery of Redstone were discharged.

On motion, it was agreed that a letter be written to the congregation of Pittsburgh relative to the decision on their petition. Mr. Smith and Mr. Hall were appointed a committee to prepare a draught of said letter, and to lay the same before the Assembly in the afternoon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted with prayer. The same members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of a letter to the congregation of Pittsburgh, reported one, which was agreed to and ordered to be transcribed, signed by the Moderator, and transmitted to them as soon as convenient.

The committee appointed to prepare the Scripture proofs in support of the doctrines of the Confession of Faith, the Catechisms, &c., of the Presbyterian Church, submitted their report, which was read, examined, and approved, as a specimen of the work. Whereupon Dr. Green, Messrs. John B. Smith, James Boyd, William M. Tennent, Nathaniel Irwin, and Andrew Hunter, were appointed a committee to compare the proofs prepared by said committee and now reported to the General Assembly, with the proofs annexed to the Westminster Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Directory, to revise the whole, prepare it for the press, to agree with the printer for its publication, and to superintend the printing and vending of the same. And said committee were further instructed to secure the copy-right of said book according to the law of the United States in such case provided.

On motion, Ordered, That the Treasurer pay to the committee appointed last year to collect Scripture proofs, &c., and who have now executed that business, the sum of one hundred and twenty dollars out of the sales of the Confession of Faith, and if the proceeds of the said sales should be insufficient, out of the general fund.

The following question, being one of the papers brought before the Assembly through the Committee of Overtures, was read, viz:

Whether, besides requiring of parents, dedicating their children to God in baptism, an express acknowledgment of the duties of parents, and recommending to them the observance thereof, it should be considered as essential, to require that they come under an explicit vow or solemn engagement also to perform those duties. Whereupon the Assembly

*Resolved*, That an answer to this question is contained in the Directory for Public Worship of this Church, under the head of the Administration of Baptism, which requires an express engagement on the part of the parents.

An overture was laid before the Assembly, through the Synod of Philadelphia, requesting a division of the Presbytery of Carlisle. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the said Presbytery be divided into two Presbyteries, by a line along the Juniata river from its mouth up to the Tuscarora Mountain; thence along the Tuscarora Mountain to the head of Path-Valley; thence westwardly to the eastern boundary of the Presbytery of Redstone, so as to leave the congregation of Bedford to the south; that the ministers settled south of said line, viz: Mr. Snodgrass, Mr. Waugh, Mr. Linn, Dr. Nesbit, Dr. Davidson, Mr. Wilson, Dr. Cooper, Mr. Craighead, Dr. King, Mr. Lang, Mr. McPherrin, Mr. Paxton, Mr. Black, Mr. Henderson, Mr. McMurdie, and Mr. Jones, together with all those who have been, or shall be, ordained or admitted, within the limits now prescribed for the Presbytery of Carlisle, since the last annual report from that Presbytery till the time when the said Presbytery shall be dissolved, shall be known by the name of the Presbytery of Carlisle; to hold their first meeting at Carlisle on the second Tuesday in April. Dr. Cooper was appointed to preach a sermon on that occasion, and to preside till a new Moderator shall be chosen; and in case of absence, the next senior member present to supply his place. And also, that the ministers, settled north of the aforesaid line, viz: Mr. Bard, Mr. John Johnston, Mr. Stephen, Mr. James Johnson, Mr. McGill, Mr. Marten, Mr. Bryson, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Hoge, together with all those who have been, or shall be, ordained or received, by the Presbytery of Carlisle within the limits prescribed for the Presbytery till the time when the Presbytery of Carlisle shall be dissolved, shall be known by the name of the Presbytery of Huntingdon; to meet for the first time in Mr. Marten's church, in Penn's Valley, on the second Tuesday in April. Mr. Hoge was appointed to preach a sermon on that occasion, and to preside till a new Moderator shall be chosen, and in case of his absence the senior member present to supply his place.

A reference was also laid before the General Assembly from the Synod of Philadelphia, requesting a division of the Synod of Philadelphia into two Synods. And after due consideration of the expediency of said measure, it was decided in the negative.

Adjourned till Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 21*st*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

The committee appointed to examine the Synod book of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported that they had reviewed the same to the end of their sessions

1792, and found them kept with accuracy and care. The Assembly accepted and approved of their report.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts delivered their report, which was approved, and is as follows:

We, the committee appointed by the General Assembly, having examined the accounts of Isaac Snowden, their Treasurer, since last settlement made May 20, 1793, and seen his vouchers, do find them just and true, and that there is a balance of three hundred and twenty-two pounds and three pence, due to the General Assembly as above stated; *i. e.* the account current which accompanied the report in the hands of the said Treasurer.

Meres Scott,
Patrick Alison,
Jno. B. Smith.

*Philadelphia, May* 21*st*, 1794.

An overture was laid before the Assembly through the Committee of Overtures, in the words following, viz: It is proposed to the General Assembly that a plan be recommended, in their resolutions, to Presbyteries to make provision for the support of invalid Presbyterian ministers, and the distressed families of any ministers in our communion, who may die in destitute circumstances, on the following principles:

1. That each minister in the respective Presbyteries, who may enjoy a salary of eighty pounds or upwards, contribute the annual sum of thirty shillings at least, and pay it into the hands of the Presbyterial Treasurer, to be transmitted to the General Treasury, as a common stock.

2. That the moneys thus collected shall be considered as a fund for charitable purposes, to be applied to the relief of distressed Presbyterian ministers and their families.

3. That each Presbytery send annually to the General Assembly a list of such invalid ministers within their bounds; or such ministers' families as may be in necessity, together with the statement of the circumstances of their case, and a recommendation of them as proper objects of the proposed relief.

4. That the Assembly take order for apportioning the yearly collections amongst the various objects in the most equitable and prudent manner.

5. That the families of all the ministers within the connection of the General Assembly, whether they be contributors or not, who may be in distress and recommended as above, be entitled to receive a part of this charitable provision for their wants.

On motion, Ordered, That the above proposal be transmitted to the different Presbyteries, who are requested to signify their opinion thereupon to the next General Assembly.

A clause of the will of Mr. Azariah Horton was laid before the Assembly by Foster Horton, one of his executors, requesting to be directed where he should lodge the stock bequeathed in the said clause, agreeably to the intention of the testator. The clause is in the words following, viz: "Item; I will and direct my said executors out of the moneys of my estate to purchase the amount of five hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents, in six per cent. stock of the United States, and that the annual interest thereof be appropriated for ever towards the education of pious youth, according to the discretion of a joint committee of the General Assembly of Presbyterian ministers and Trustees of Princeton College in New Jersey, the said committee to authorize and empower, from time to time, a person to draw and receive said interest for the use and purpose aforesaid." Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the above stock be lodged in the hands of the Trustees of

New Jersey College, in order to be applied in the manner and for the purpose contained in the forecited clause.

The following reference from the Synod of Philadelphia was laid before the Assembly: "As Baptism is to be administered to the infants of those who are members of the visible church, but our Directory leaves the description of the visible and credible profession of Christianity vague and indefinite, it is humbly proposed to the Assembly to give some precise direction and definition of such a profession for the information of its ministers." In answer to the above reference, the Assembly judged it unnecessary, and perhaps impracticable, to deliver rules more explicit than those contained in the standards of our church, but should cases of difficulty arise, they must be decided, respectively, according to their own merits, before the proper judicatories.

The committee appointed to draught a circular address to the inhabitants visited by the missionaries, reported the same, which was read and approved, and is in the following words, viz:

"*Dear Friends and Brethren*—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, have, for some years, viewed with concern, the state of our frontier and other settlements in the Union, which are destitute of the regular administration of the worship and ordinances of God; and, desirous to do all in our power to extend the blessings of the gospel amongst you, we have given orders to our several Presbyteries to raise collections annually from their respective congregations, for the support of missionaries to be sent amongst you. Providence hath thus far blessed our endeavours, and several of our brethren have, from time to time, cheerfully left their friends and connections for several months, in order to visit your settlements and publish the glad tidings of salvation to you.

The accounts which, on their return, they have given us of their reception and success amongst you, have frequently and greatly comforted us, and given us the pleasing hope that their labours and our wishes have not been in vain in the Lord.

As our aim has not been to proselyte from other communities to our denomination, we have charged our missionaries to avoid all doubtful disputations, to abstain from unfriendly censures or reflections on other religious persuasions, and, adhering strictly to the great doctrines of our holy religion which influence the heart and life in the ways of godliness, to follow after the things that make for peace and general edification.

From the peculiar circumstances of your situation, we think it our duty to exhort you to attend particularly to the catechetical instruction of your children. We fear there is a sad and too general neglect of this duty. Dear brethren, we wish you to remember that the neglect of this duty naturally leads to the most serious and awful consequences. Your children will grow up in sad ignorance of their spiritual and everlasting concerns; this ignorance will prove the fruitful parent of immorality and licentiousness; instead of knowing Scripture truth from their childhood, and being established therein, they will lie exposed to be tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive: the prospect of the rising churches, and growing interests of religion amongst you, will probably be blasted: and we cannot help but call to your view, the awful account you must give to God, if by your neglect of so important a duty, you should prove the occasion of so much mischief to your dear offspring, and endanger the interests of our Redeemer's kingdom.

The profanation of the Lord's day, and the neglect of those religious exercises which humanize and sanctify the heart, we are apprehensive may be too prevalent among you. We know that, from your peculiarly destitute and unsettled circumstances, you cannot spend your Sabbaths as many among you no doubt wish: we therefore earnestly recommend to you, while in your present circumstances, to form small societies, in which you may meet every Lord's day for the purpose of social prayer and praise, reading the Scriptures, and sermons of some of our most approved and pious divines. Where you have not elders and deacons, regularly ordained, who may lead your worship, we think you ought to choose from among yourselves those whose knowledge, talents, and religious deportment are most conspicuous. By this method your social attachments will be cherished, your habits of worship improved, and you will be gradually ripening for the full establishment of the ordinances of the gospel.

We hear with pain that you are peculiarly exposed to visits from men unauthorized by the churches, unsound in faith, and of unholy and immoral lives, who call themselves preachers. We exhort you to be very careful, neither to admit nor encourage preachers with whose principles, connections, and characters, you are unacquainted.

As all the churches of our denomination, and also the churches of New England, viewing with concern the evils which may follow the admission of irregular and unauthorized preachers, have resolved that all their missionaries who visit you shall be furnished with proper evidences of their mission, you have reason to suspect those who visit you without authentic certificates from some known religious denomination. The weakest and most worthless of men are able to create and foment divisions: the judicious and pious will lead to union—such as these, your present circumstances peculiarly require.

We cannot entertain a doubt, that when you consider the extent of the mission, and the circumstances attending its fulfilment, you will cheerfully contribute your assistance (as some places amongst you have already done) toward the prosecuting of this object, as soon as your situation shall render such a measure eligible.

We sincerely desire that you may abound in the fruits of holiness under that measure of cultivation which the great Lord of the harvest may afford you; that you would use your utmost endeavour to procure, as soon as may be, a more complete and extensive establishment of gospel means amongst you, and that you would unite your earnest prayers with us, that the knowledge of the Lord may cover the earth as the waters do the sea.

We are, dear friends and brethren, in the bonds of our common Christianity, yours affectionately. Signed by order,

ALEXANDER MCWHORTER, *Moderator.*"

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met, and was constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

The several Presbyteries under the superintendence of the General Assembly delivered a list of their ministers according to seniority, and the times of their respective ordinations, except the Presbyteries of Long Island, Redstone, Lexington, and those Presbyteries which were not present.

Ordered, That the door-keeper be paid by the Treasurer five pounds ten shillings, for his services and other incidental expenses of this Assembly; also twenty-five dollars to the Stated Clerk, as a compensation for his services for the present year.

On motion, *Resolved*, That two dozen copies of Dr. Doddridge's "Rise and Progress," be procured at the expense of this Assembly, and dispersed among the frontiers of Pennsylvania and New York states.

*Resolved*, That the next General Assembly of this church be held in the Presbyterian church of Carlisle, on the third Thursday of May, 1795, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, after making known the above order, did then dissolve the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution.

Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1794.

### SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dutchess, | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Long Island, | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| New York, | 20 | 3 | 3 | 8 |
| New Brunswick, | 15 |  | 1 | 8 |
| Albany, | 8 |  | 2 | 10 |
| SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA. |  |  |  |  |
| Philadelphia, | 12 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| New Castle, | 12 |  | 3 | 8 |
| Lewes, | 7 |  |  | 3 |
| Baltimore, | 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Carlisle, | 18 | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| Huntingdon, | 10 | 1 |  |  |
| SYNOD OF VIRGINIA. |  |  |  |  |
| Redstone, | 7 |  | 4 | 20 |
| Ohio, | 5 |  |  |  |
| Hanover, | 5 | 3 | 3 | 8 |
| Lexington, | 12 | 1 | 7 | 13 |
| Transylvania. No report. |  |  |  |  |
| SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS. |  |  |  |  |
| Orange, | 19 | 1 | 9 | 22 |
| South Carolina. No report. |  |  |  |  |
| Abingdon. No report. |  |  |  |  |
| Total, | 167 | 20 | 42 | 126 |

Amount of collections, 644*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

DEATHS.—In Albany Presbytery one minister died, name not given; in that of New York, one died and one was deposed, names not given; in that of Hanover, the Rev. John Todd died July 27th, 1793; in that of Redstone, the Rev. Thaddeus Dodd died May 20th, 1793; in that of Baltimore, the Rev. James Hunt died June 2d, 1793.

## 1795.

CARLISLE, *May* 21*st*, 1795.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, according to appointment, in the Presbyterian church in Carlisle, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter, the last year's Moderator, from Acts xx. 24: "But none of these things move me; neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

Neither of the Clerks of last year being present, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Van Artsdalen were appointed *pro tempore* until new Clerks should be chosen.

The commissioners produced their commissions to the General Assembly, which having been read, the following persons appeared to have been constitutionally appointed commissioners, and they took their seats accordingly, and are as follows, viz:

1. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Mr. Jacob Van Artsdalen, Dr. John McKnight. *Elders*—Mr. Nathaniel Little, Mr. Mathew Freeman.
2. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—Mr. John Hanna, Mr. James F. Armstrong. *Elder*—Mr. John Bayard.
3. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Mr. Nathaniel Irwin, Mr. John Gemmil, Mr. John Abeel. *Elders*—Mr. Isaac Snowden, Mr. John Shatton, Mr. Joel Fithian.
4. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Minister*—Mr. Colin McFarquar, *Elders*—None.
5. PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—*Minister*—Mr. Francis Hindman. *Elders*—None.
6. PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—*Ministers*—Dr. James Muir, Mr. Cunningham Semple. *Elders*—None.
7. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Dr. Charles Nesbit, Dr. John King, Mr. Thomas McPherrin, Mr. William Paxton. *Elder*—Mr. John M. Bayard.
8. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—*Ministers*—Mr. Samuel Porter, Mr. William Swan. *Elders*—Mr. John Shields, Mr. John Barnet.
9. PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—*Ministers*—Mr. John McMillan, Mr. Joseph Patterson. *Elders*—Mr. Patrick Scott, Mr. William Smiley.
10. PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—*Ministers*—Mr. David Rice, Mr. James Blythe. *Elder*—Mr. Robert Patterson.
11. PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—*Minister*—Mr. David Caldwell. *Elders*—None.
12. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—None.
13. PRESBYTERY OF DUTCHESS—None.
14. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—None.

Mr. William Ross appeared and informed the General Assembly that he had been commissioned as a ruling elder by the Presbytery of Baltimore, but had forgotten to bring his commission with him. Dr. Muir, who assured the General Assembly that he had signed Mr. Ross's commission as Moderator, and Mr. C. Semple, commissioners from the Presbytery of Baltimore, having testified that Mr. Ross was duly appointed commissioner with them, the General Assembly agreed that Mr. Ross be admitted as a commissioner, and he took his seat accordingly.

The Rev. Drury Lacy, from the Presbytery of Hanover, produced a commission of his appointment as a commissioner, signed by the Clerk. Mr. Lacy informed the General Assembly that the omission of the signature by the Moderator was solely owing to inattention to the Constitution, and to the Presbytery's having always considered every act of their body signed by the Clerk alone as carrying due testimony with it. Mr. Lacy's commission was accepted, and he took his seat accordingly.

Mr. Moses Hoge, minister, and Mr. John Kearsley, ruling elder, produced commissions from the Presbytery of Winchester, which Presbytery was ordered to be formed and constituted by the Synod of Virginia, by dividing the Presbytery of Lexington so as to make two Presbyteries. And though no report was produced from the Synod of Virginia, that said Presbytery had been made and constituted according to order, yet there appearing ample testimony to the General Assembly that such was the case, the commissions of Mr. Hoge and Mr. Kearsley were approved, and they took their seats accordingly.

The General Assembly proceeded to the election of a Moderator, and the Rev. Dr. McKnight was duly chosen. The Rev. Messrs. Armstrong and Van Artsdalen were duly elected Clerks.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last General Assembly.

No commissioners appeared from the General Association of the state of Connecticut.

Dr. McWhorter, Messrs. Hanna, Abeel, McFarquar, Hindman, C. Semple, McPherrin, Porter, McMillan, Rice, Caldwell, Hoge, and Lacy, ministers; and Messrs. John Bayard, Little, Snowden, Ross, John M. Bayard, and Kearsley, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards upon their own adjournments.

The minutes of the last General Assembly were read to the end of the report of the Synod of Virginia.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22nd, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment. *U. P. P. S. Q. S.*

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The Rev. James Johnson and the Rev. Isaac Grier, from the Presbytery of Huntingdon, the Rev. Nathaniel W. Semple, and Mr. Amos Slaymaker, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of New Castle, and Mr. William Harris, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of Carlisle, appeared as commissioners, and their commissions having been read and approved, they took their seats accordingly.

Ordered, To proceed in reading the minutes of the last General Assembly.

Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Lacy, and Mr. Porter, ministers, and Mr. John Bayard, elder, were appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, and report as soon as convenient.

The books of the Synods of New York and New Jersey, Virginia, and the Carolinas were not brought up to the General Assembly.

Ordered, That Dr. King, Mr. Nathaniel W. Semple, and Mr. John M. Bayard be a committee to examine the Treasurer's Accounts, and report as soon as convenient.

Mr. C. Semple reported that he had fulfilled the different missions appointed him by the General Assembly, and a mission appointed by the Presbytery of Baltimore by order of the General Assembly, and that he had received, during the course of his different missions, £20 17*s.* 9*d.*

Mr. Robert Smith reported that he had spent four months in fulfilling the missions appointed to him by the General Assembly; but that he had found it impracticable during the winter season, from want of health, to remain out the other two months.

Both of the missionaries informed the General Assembly, that most of the places where they preached appeared to be duly sensible of the care and attention of the General Assembly, in sending missionaries to preach the gospel among them, and requested a continuance of missionaries, as there was every appearance of the most important advantages from the prosecution of this plan.

The General Assembly heard with approbation, the circumstantial narratives of Mr. Semple and Mr. Smith, respecting the state of religion and of society in the places where they had preached.

No official reports were made by the Synods of Virginia and of the Carolinas, respecting their missionaries; but individual members from those Synods informed the General Assembly that missions had been appointed, and, they believe, executed as far as circumstances would admit.

Mr. Judd, one of the missionaries appointed last year, was not present; there was no report respecting the fulfilment of his mission.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read according to order.

Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Hanna, Dr. King, and Mr. Irwin, ministers, and Mr. Isaac Snowden, Mr. John Bayard, and Mr. Fithian, elders, were appointed to prepare a report to be laid before the General Assembly on Monday next in the forenoon, on the subject of missions to the frontiers.

The General Assembly finding, upon inquiry, that the orders respecting materials for Church History, have been complied with in general by all the Presbyteries present, and several Presbyteries having declared, that though there may be deficiencies in their collections, yet they have done every thing they can in that business;

Whereupon the General Assembly did, and do hereby, for the last time, renew the orders to all the Presbyteries who may not have fully complied with former orders, to complete the collection of materials for Church History, in all their congregations settled or vacant, and take the most decisive measures that they be transmitted to the Stated Clerk at or before the meeting of the next General Assembly.

Dr. McWhorter, one of the delegates from the last General Assembly to the General Association of the state of Connecticut, reported that he, with Mr. Chapman, attended the said Association agreeably to their appointment. That Mr. Clark, the other delegate, did not attend.

Dr. McWhorter laid before the General Assembly an extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the General Association of the state of Connecticut, which, having been read, was ordered to be entered upon the minutes of the General Assembly, and was as follows:

"The motion of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, that the delegates from that Assembly to this Association, and the delegates from this Association to that Assembly, be empowered to vote in all questions decided in those bodies respectively, was taken into consideration; and after discussion, the General Association voted a compliance with the said proposal."

That the above is an authentic extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the General Association of the state of Connecticut, at their sessions begun on the 17th day of June, A. D., 1794, is attested by

JONATHAN EDWARDS, *Scribe of the General Association.*

The General Assembly proceeded to the election of delegates to the next General Association of the state of Connecticut, to meet at Saybrook on Tuesday 16th of June next, and the Rev. Drs. Ashbel Green and William M. Tennent, and Mr. John Gemmil, were duly chosen, and are hereby ordered to give an account of their diligence to the business of their delegation, to the next General Assembly. A copy of this minute, attested by the Stated Clerk, shall be a sufficient warrant of their delegation.

*Resolved*, That the delegates to the General Association of the state of Connecticut be allowed one dollar per day during their attendance with the Association, and at the rate of one dollar for every forty miles going and returning. Which sums the Treasurer is hereby ordered to pay out of the fund of the General Assembly.

Mr. Leacock was appointed to supply Dr. Green's pulpit the second Sabbath, and Mr. Hunter the third Sabbath in June.

Mr. James Boyd was appointed to supply Dr. Tennent's pulpit the second Sabbath of June at Abington, and Dr. Blair the third Sabbath of June at New Providence.

Mr. Grier was appointed to supply Mr. Gemmil's pulpit the second Sabbath of June at Charleston, and Mr. Mitchel the third Sabbath of June at Great Valley, during their attendance at the meeting of the General Association of the state of Connecticut.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read according to order.

The committee appointed to meet the Trustees of the College of New Jersey in September last, in order to dispose of the interest of certain moneys in possession of the Board, appropriated to the education of poor and pious youth, reported, That they met according to order, and directed a sum, not exceeding seventy-four pounds, to be appropriated for the use of certain persons of the character aforesaid.

On motion, *Resolved,* That Mr. John B. Smith, Mr. William Boyd, and Mr. Gilbert Snowden be a committee to meet the Board of Trustees of New Jersey College, at the next commencement to be held at Princeton, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the funds in the hands of said Board, the interest of which is subject to the appropriation of the General Assembly, and to direct the appropriation of any interest which may have accrued by that time.

There was no report respecting the Index to the printed extracts and written records of the General Assembly, ordered to be prepared by the Stated Clerk.

Ordered, That he prepare said Index by the meeting of the next General Assembly.

Ordered, That the Synodical reports and the duplicate reports from the Presbyteries, be delivered in on Monday forenoon.

There was no report from the Presbytery of Albany respecting the mission ordered to be sent by them to the Western frontiers of the state of New York.

The committee appointed to review the proofs of the Confession of Faith and Catechisms, &c., reported that they have executed, in part, the business committed to them, and expected to be able to complete it, so far as depends on them, against the meeting of the next General Assembly.

Ordered, That the committee be continued, and that they complete, if possible, the business, and report to the next General Assembly.

Respecting the overture recommending provision to be made for the support of ministers in our communion, and their families who may be in distressed circumstances, and transmitted, by the last General Assembly, to the different Presbyteries, that they might signify their opinion thereon to this General Assembly, the Presbyteries represented in this General Assembly gave it as their opinion, that though they approve of the object, they consider the plan inexpedient and improper to be adopted.

Ordered that a letter from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, on the above subject, lie on the table for consideration.

The Treasurer reported, that the order of the last General Assembly for the distribution of two dozen of copies of Doddridge's Rise and Progress, on the frontiers of the States of New York and Pennsylvania, was complied with.

The following credentials were overtured by the Committee of Overtures; and thereupon the Assembly ordered that record be made as follows, viz: The credentials of Mr. Samuel Knox, a licentiate from the Presbytery of Belfast, in Ireland, were laid before the General Assembly, by the Presbytery of Baltimore, which, having been read, were approved; and the Presbytery of Baltimore was ordered to take Mr. Knox under their care. The credentials of Mr. William Arthur, an ordained minister lately in connection with the Associate Reformed Presbytery of New York, with testimonials of his having been received as a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, were laid before the General Assembly, which, having been read, were approved.

The credentials of Mr. John Porter, a licentiate from the Presbytery of Dromore, in Ireland, were laid before the General Assembly by the Presbytery of New Castle, which, having been read, were approved; and the Presbytery of New Castle were ordered to take Mr. Porter under their care.

The credentials of Mr. Samuel Leacock, an ordained minister, lately pastor of an Independent Congregation in Lacemlashire, in England, were laid before the General Assembly by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, which, having been read, were approved.

The following request was overtured by the Committee of Bills and Overtures:

That the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas have liberty to direct their Presbyteries to ordain such candidates as they may judge necessary to appoint on missions to preach the gospel; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the above request be granted—the Synods being careful to restrict the permission to the ordination of such candidates only as are engaged to be sent on missions.

Adjourned until Monday morning at 10 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 25*th*, 10 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

Members present as before, except Mr. Ross, who had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions, and Mr. Hindman absent through indisposition.

The committee on the subject of missions reported according to order. The report having been read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on the subject of missions met, Dr. McWhorter, Dr. King, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Snowden, Col. Bayard. and Mr. Fithian, present. Dr. McWhorter, chosen Moderator, and Dr. King, Clerk.

On the subject of their appointment they agreed,

1. That Mr. Thatcher be appointed a missionary till the next General Assembly, to commence his labours as soon as convenient at Wyoming; to proceed up the river to Tioga Point, Newtown Point, Great Flat, and to the Seneca Lake, &c.; and to visit the several settlements in that course and in the Genessee country, officiating statedly in those places where there may appear to him the greatest prospect of usefulness in the different objects of his mission, and that he have four Sabbaths during the mission at discretion.

2. That John Porter be appointed a missionary for three months, to set out as soon as possible from Fishing Creek on the north-east branch of the Susquehanna, and to proceed up the river to Wyoming, Tioga Point, and from thence up the east branch as far as Cooper's Town, visiting the several settlements in that route.

3. That Mr. McLene be appointed a missionary for three months, to set out as soon as possible from Lycoming on the west branch of the Susquehanna, to proceed across the mountains to the Chemung Branch, Painted Post, Bath, Genessee River, Conodaque, and Seneca, and visiting the several settlements in this course, and such other places as may appear proper.

4. That Mr. C. Semple be appointed a missionary for two months to the western shore of Maryland; to confine his labours to such settlements and people as may not yet have been formed into regular societies, and appear unable, in their present state, to make compensation for supplies.

5. The north-western missionaries are instructed not to approach nearer to Albany than Cooper's Town; to be particularly attentive to such settlements as are most out of the reach of other supplies, and to inquire after and visit any such as are newly formed, if they should appear of sufficient consequence.

Mr. Martin, Mr. McLene, and Mr. Porter, are directed to advise, when they have an opportunity, with Mr. Thatcher with regard to the measures, &c., to be observed for rendering their mission most convenient and useful.

6. That the salary of the missionaries shall be at the rate of thirty-three and one-third dollars per month, and that the Treasurer advance to Mr. Thatcher one hundred dollars, and to each of the others one month's salary; and that the missionaries account with the General Assembly for any moneys which may be voluntarily raised for their support in any places where they may preach.

Ordered, That the Clerks prepare and report, as soon as convenient, a draught of a commission for the missionaries to the frontiers.

Dr. King, Mr. N. Semple, and Mr. John M. Bayard, the committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of the General Assembly, delivered in their report, which was approved, and is as follows:

"*Carlisle, May 25th*, 1795.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly have examined the accounts of Mr. Snowden, their Treasurer, since the last settlement, and have seen his vouchers, and find them just and true; and that there is a balance of three hundred and six pounds fifteen shillings and ten pence in the hands of the said Treasurer due to the General Assembly.

John King,
N. W. Semple,
John M. Bayard."

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read according to order.

The Synods of New York and New Jersey, and of Philadelphia, gave in their annual reports, which were as follows:

Agreeably to the direction of the General Assembly, the Synod of New York and New Jersey met October . . . . ., 1794, report,

That the Synod consists of five Presbyteries—Albany, Dutchess, Long Island, New York, and New Brunswick.

That the Presbytery of Albany consists of eleven ministers, all of whom have charges. They have eighteen vacant congregations under their care, of which ten are deemed able to support each a minister, and eight are not yet able. They have ordained three candidates to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed them as pastors of particular congregations. And they have one candidate under their care, as appears by their report to the Synod, No. 1.

The Presbytery of Dutchess made no report to Synod.

The Presbytery of Long Island consists of twelve ministers, nine of whom have charges, and three have not charges. They have three vacant congregations, each able to support a minister. They have two candidates. They have received two members, one from the Presbytery of Albany, and the other from the Presbytery of Dutchess. They have dismissed two members, one to join the Association of Litchfield-South, in the state of Connecticut, and one of their members has been removed by death, as appears by their Report to Synod No. 2.

The Presbytery of New York consists of twenty-three ministers, twenty of whom have charges, one has the care of an academy at Hackensack, and two have not charges. They have three vacant churches, or congregations, each able to support a minister; and six, in their present united state, are deemed able to support three ministers, and three not yet able. They have admitted one licentiate from the Association of the Western District of Fairfield county in the state of Connecticut, and dismissed another to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Albany; and they have ordained another to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of a particular congregation. They have two candidates under their care; and one of their members has been removed by death, as appears by their Report to the Synod No. 3.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick consists of sixteen members, twelve of whom have charges; one is President, and one Vice President of the College of New Jersey, and two have not charges. They have three candidates under their care. They have four vacancies under their care, each able to support a minister; six, in their united state, able to support three ministers, and one not able: and one of their members has been removed by death, as appears by their Report to Synod, No. 4.

JOHN RODGERS, *Stated Clerk of the Synod.*

The Synod of Philadelphia report to the General Assembly, That this Synod consists of six Presbyteries, as followeth:

1. The Presbytery of Philadelphia, containing twelve ministers, of whom eleven have pastoral charges, viz:—Rev. Dr. John Ewing, First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Francis Peppard, Allentown; Rev. Dr. Samuel Blair, without a charge; Rev. James Boyd, Newton and Bensalem; Rev. Dr. W. Tennent, Abington, Norriton, and New Providence; Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Forks of Neshaminy; Rev. Andrew Hunter, Woodbury; Rev. Dr. John B. Smith, Third Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Ethan Osborne, Fairfield; Rev. John Gemmil, Great Valley, Charleston, and West Chester; Rev. Abijah Davis, Cape May. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Nathaniel Harris, William Clarkson. *Candidate*—Mr. Uriah Dubois. *Vacant churches*—Pittsgrove, Deerfield, Greenwich, Bridgetown, Penn's Neck, Deep Run, and Tinicum.

2. The Presbytery of New Castle, consisting of eleven ministers, all of whom have pastoral charges, viz:—Rev. William McKennan, Redclay-Creek, and Wilmington; Rev. James Latta, Chestnut Level; Rev. Colin McFarquar, Donegal; Rev. Alexander Mitchel, Upper Octarara and Doe Run; Rev. John McCreary, Whiteclay Creek and Head of Christiana; Rev. Thomas Read, First Presbyterian Church, St. George's Hundred; Rev. William Smith, Wilmington; Rev. Nathaniel W. Semple, Leacock, Lancaster, and

Upper Octarara; Rev. Samuel Barr, New Castle and Christiana Bridge; Rev. John Burton, St. George's; Rev. Nathaniel Grier, Brandywine Manor. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Samuel Davidson, William Woods, Samuel Ralston. *Vacant Churches*—East Nottingham, New London, Little Britton, Pequea, The Grove, West Nottingham, Pencader, Middleton in Delaware State, Middleton in Delaware County, Lower Brandywine, Elkton, Charleston, and Thorough-fare-neck.

3. The Presbytery of Baltimore, consisting of eight ministers, of whom seven only have pastoral charges, viz: Rev. John Slemons, Chanceford; Rev. Dr. Patrick Alison, Baltimore; Rev. George Luckey, Centre and Bethel; Rev. Dr. James Muir, Alexandria; Rev. Stephen B. Balch, Georgetown; Rev. Caleb Johnson, Deer Creek; Rev. Enoch Matson, Bermuda; Rev. Andrew Law, without a charge. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Cunningham Sample, Samuel Martin, and John Brackenridge. *Vacant Churches*—Capt. John, Bladensburg, Fredericktown, Slate Ridge, and Soldier's Delight.

4. The Presbytery of Carlisle, consisting of twenty ministers, of whom sixteen only have pastoral charges, viz: Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit, President of Dickinson College; Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, Middle Spring; Rev. Robert McMurdie, without charge; Rev. James Lang, East Connecocheague; Rev. John Craighead, Rocky Spring; Rev. Dr. John King, Upper Connecocheague West; Rev. John Black, without charge; Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, Carlisle; Rev. Thomas McPherrin, Lower East and West Connecocheague; Rev. Daniel Jones, without a charge; Rev. Samuel Waugh, East Pennsborough and Monaghan; Rev. John Linn, Shureman's Valley; Rev. Joseph Henderson, Great Connewago; Rev. Samuel Wilson, Big Spring; Rev. James Snodgrass, Hanover; Rev. William Paxton, Lower Marsh Creek and Tom's Creek; Rev. Robert Cathcart, York and Hopewell; Rev. Nathaniel Snowden, Harrisburg, Paxton, and Derry; Rev. John Boyd, Tuscarora and Falling Waters; Rev. David Denny, Path Valley. *Licentiates*—Messrs. William Spier, Samuel Mahan, and James McClean. *Vacant Churches*—Upper Marsh Creek, Piney Creek, Bedford, Great Cove, Williams Port, and Mouth of Juniata.

5. The Presbytery of Huntingdon consists of eleven ministers, of whom ten only have pastoral charges, viz: Rev. John Hoge, without a charge; Rev. James Martin, Penn's Valley; Rev. Hugh Magill, Cedar Spring and Lower Tuscarora; Rev. David Bard, Franks Town; Rev. Matthew Stephen, Upper and Centre Waye-Township; Rev. James Johnston, East and West Kishacoquillas; Rev. John Johnston, Huntingdon and Harts Log; Rev. Hugh Morrison, Northumberland, Sunbury, and Buffaloe; Rev. John Bryson, Chilisquaque and Warrior's Run; Rev. Isaac Grier, Pine Creek, Lycoming, and Great Island; Rev. David Wiley, Cedar Creek and Spring Creek. *Vacant Churches*—Upper Tuscarora, Shavers Creek, Lewis Town, Derry, Bald Eagle, Mahoning, Fishing Creek, Great Aughwick, Shearman's Creek, and Muncy.

6. The Presbytery of Lewes, consisting of seven ministers, of whom five only have pastoral charges, viz: Rev. Jacob Ker, Wicomaco and Monokin; Rev. John Rankin, Buckingham; Rev. Samuel McMasters, Snow Hill and Pitts Creek; Rev. William McKee, without a charge; Rev. Francis Hindman, Cool Spring, Lewes, and Indian River; Rev. Isaac Tull, Broad Creek; Rev. John Collins, without a charge. *Licentiate*—Mr. John Johnson. *Vacant Churches*—Queen Ann's, Duck Creek, Dover, Murderkill, Three Runs, Johnstown, Blackwater, Rehoboth, Vienna, and Fishing Creek.

NATHANIEL IRWIN, *Stated Clerk.*

*August 29th*, 1794.

A duplicate return was sent up according to order from the Presbytery of New York, and not from any other Presbytery belonging to the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

Duplicate returns from the Presbyteries of Philadelphia, New Castle, and Baltimore, were sent up according to order, and not from any other Presbyteries of the Synod of Philadelphia.

Ordered, That Dr. Ewing, Mr. John B. Smith, Dr. Green, Mr. Abeel, and Mr. Isaac Snowden, be a committee to have such parts of the minutes of the present session of the General Assembly as they may judge will be of advantage to the Church, printed together with an account of the collections made agreeably to the order of the General Assembly, for defraying the expenses of sending missionaries to preach the gospel on the frontiers.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and constituted with prayer. Present as before, except Mr. Porter and Mr. Shields, who had leave of absence during the remainder of the session, and Mr. Gemmil absent without leave.

Dr. Muir informed the General Assembly that Mr. Martin declined accepting the mission to the frontiers, to which he was appointed, giving as his reason, the want of health. Mr. Martin's reason was sustained. A motion was then made that another person be appointed in his place; and the vote being taken, the motion was decided in the negative; whereupon,

Ordered, That Mr. John Porter, one of the missionaries, be directed to pursue the route appointed for Mr. Martin.

The letter from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, on the subject of making provision for distressed ministers and their families, which had been ordered to lie upon the table for consideration, was taken up and read, and the folling overture which it contained, was ordered to be entered upon the minutes, and is as follows, viz:

The Presbytery of Philadelphia, having taken into consideration the proposal of the General Assembly, relative to the establishment of a fund for the relief of necessitous ministers and their families,

*Resolved,* That this Presbytery do highly approve of the object recommended by the Assembly; but on mature consideration, are apprehensive that the plan specified will be inadequate to the attainment of this object, and therefore have determined to submit to the Assembly the following, viz:

That the General Assembly, or certain trustees in their behalf, be incorporated under the existing laws of Pennsylvania.

The Presbytery are induced to bring forward the foregoing, because, if the plan it contemplates be adopted, it would enable the Assembly to secure and improve all such funds as they do at present, or may hereafter possess. It would encourage persons by devise or otherwise to entrust them with estates real or personal, to be applied to pious or charitable uses. The corporation might be limited to make no sales or disbursements except in pursuance of the resolutions of the Assembly; a rotation of the members be kept up by successive elections at each Assembly, and brought under such other regulations as may be deemed proper.

*Resolved,* That the foregoing overture and reasons alleged in support of it, be laid before the next General Assembly, by the commissioners from this Presbytery; and that they be furnished for this purpose with a copy thereof authenticated by the Clerk of Presbytery.

JOHN N. ABEEL, *Clerk*

Whereupon, after due deliberation, it was

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Drs. John Ewing and Ashbel Green, the Rev. John Smith and Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, with Dr. David Jackson and Ebenezer Hazard, be a committee, any three of whom, including Dr. Ewing or the senior member present, to be a quorum to prepare a draught of a charter as proposed by the above overture, to be laid before the next General Assembly.

The following overture was brought in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, viz:

"A serious and conscientious person, a member of a Presbyterian congregation, who views the slavery of the negroes as a moral evil, highly offensive to God, and injurious to the interests of the gospel, lives under the ministry of a person, or amongst a society of people who concur with him in sentiment on the subject upon general principles, yet for particular reasons hold slaves, and tolerate the practice in others. Overtured, ought the former of these persons, under the impressions and circumstances above described, to hold Christian communion with the latter?"

Whereupon, after due deliberation, it was

*Resolved*, That as the same difference of opinion with respect to slavery takes place in sundry other parts of the Presbyterian Church, notwithstanding which they live in charity and peace according to the doctrine and practice of the Apostles, it is hereby recommended to all conscientious persons, and especially to those whom it immediately respects, to do the same. At the same time, the General Assembly assure all the churches under their care, that they view, with the deepest concern, any vestiges of slavery which may exist in our country, and refer the churches to the records of the General Assembly published at different times, but especially to an overture of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, published in 1787, and republished among the extracts from the Minutes of the General Assembly of 1793, on that head, with which they trust every conscientious person will be fully satisfied.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Rice and Dr. Muir, ministers, and Mr. Robert Patterson, an elder, be a committee to draught a letter to the Presbytery of Transylvania, on the subject of the above overture, and report in the afternoon.

The Clerks reported, agreeably to order, a draught of a commission for the missionaries to the frontiers, which, being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, now sitting at Carlisle, reposing confidence in your piety, prudence, and abilities for the important business, do hereby appoint you one of their missionaries.

In discharge of the trust committed to you, much must be left to your discretion. But the General Assembly, viewing with concern the state of our frontiers, and other settlements destitute of the regular administration of the worship and ordinances of God, and desirous to do all in their power to extend the blessings to be derived from the means of grace, confidently expect that you will faithfully preach the gospel, administer its ordinances, organize churches, and ordain elders; doing all these things according to the word of God, and the standards of our Church contained in our Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechisms, the Government and Discipline, and Directory for the worship of God: commending you to the grace and protection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we wish abundant success to your mission. Of your diligence wherein, of the state of religion and of society, of the most probable means of establishing the gospel in these parts, with every useful and necessary information, you will give an account to the next General Assembly.

"Done at Carlisle, this 26th day of May, 1795, in the name and by the order of the General Assembly. Signed—*Moderator.*
Attested—*Clerks to the General Assembly.*"

Ordered, That the commissions of the missionaries be signed by the Moderator, and attested by the Clerks of the present General Assembly.

The committee appointed to review the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, that they had reviewed them to the end of the year 1793, and found them, in general, kept with accuracy and care, which report was approved.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock, in the afternoon. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer. Present as before, together with Mr. Hindman.

The minutes of the last session were read according to order.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of a letter to the Presbytery of Transylvania, reported a draught, which being read and debated for some time, a motion was made, Shall this draught of a letter be read and debated by paragraphs, or not? The vote being taken, the question was carried in the affirmative. The consideration of the draught was resumed, and after very considerable time spent therein, it was amended and adopted, and ordered to be signed and sent to the Presbytery of Transylvania by their commissioners.*

---

* We have found the original draught of this letter, which it seems caused much discussion; and, as a part of the history of the discussions on this much litigated question, we insert it, with the passages included in brackets, which in the course of the discussion were stricken out.

*To our Brethren, members of the Presbyterian Church under the care of Transylvania Presbytery.*

Dear Friends and Brethren—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church hear with concern from your commissioners, that differences of opinion with respect to holding Christian communion with those possessed of slaves, agitate the minds of some among you, and threaten divisions which may have the most ruinous tendency. The subject of slavery has repeatedly claimed the attention of the General Assembly, and the commissioners from the Presbytery of Transylvania are furnished with attested copies of these decisions, to be read by the Presbytery when it shall appear to them proper, together with a copy of this letter, to the several churches under their care.

The General Assembly have taken every step which they deemed expedient or wise, to encourage emancipation, and to render the state of those who are in slavery as mild and tolerable as possible.

[The General Assembly earnestly recommend to all under the care of any of their Presbyteries, who may be in possession of slaves, to make conscience to bring all of them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to have them taught to read; to impress their minds with the importance of Christianity, and to familiarize them to habits of industry and order. A neglect of this is inconsistent with the character of a Christian master; but the observance might prevent, in great part, what is really the moral evil attending slavery, namely, allowing precious souls under the charge of masters to perish for lack of knowledge. Freedom is desirable, but cannot at all times be enjoyed with advantage; a parent to set his child loose from all authority, would be doing him the most essential injury. The child must first be prepared by education and discipline to act for himself, before the restraint of parental authority is taken off. A slave let loose upon society, ignorant, idle, and headstrong, is in a state to injure others, and to ruin himself. No Christian master can answer for such conduct to his own mind. The slave must first be in a situation to act properly as a member of civil society, before he can advantageously be introduced therein.]

Forbearance and peace are frequently inculcated and enjoined in the New Testament. [We at present know in part only. The most perfect knowledge of mortals in reference to immortals, is the knowledge of childhood in reference to manhood. We ought therefore always to be diffident of ourselves, and rather to suspect ourselves, than by an ob-

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay to the door-keeper four pounds four shillings and threepence, for his services and other incidental expenses during the sitting of the General Assembly. Also, to the Stated Clerk, twenty-five dollars as a compensation for his services during the present year.

The General Assembly took into consideration the application made to them by commissioners from a corporation in the state of Kentucky for the promotion of literature; and from the Presbytery of Transylvania, requesting their countenance and assistance, in order that the said commissioners may be aided in obtaining donations for the aforesaid institution; and after mature deliberation,

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly, earnestly wishing that the cause of learning and religion may be promoted throughout the world, and especially in these United States, did, and hereby do, assure all persons to whom the commissioners, Mr. Rice and Mr. Blythe, may address themselves, that they are ministers of the Presbyterian denomination, of good standing and high reputation with us, and therefore do recommend them and their cause to all to whom they may apply, for their liberality for the promotion of the seminary about to be erected in that state.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia on the third Thursday of May, 1796, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. Whereupon, the Moderator did dissolve this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution, and

Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1795.

### SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany, | 11 | | | 18 |
| Dutchess. No report. | | | | |
| Long Island, | 9 | 3 | | 3 |
| New York, | 20 | 3 | 1 | 12 |
| New Brunswick, | 12 | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA. | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 11 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| New Castle, | 11 | | 3 | 13 |
| Baltimore, | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Carlisle, | 16 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Huntingdon, | 10 | 1 | | 10 |
| Lewes, | 5 | 2 | 1 | 10 |

---

stinate adherence to any favourable opinion, to hazard *the peace and union of the Church.*] Blessed are the peace-makers. Let no one do any thing through strife and vainglory. Let each esteem others better than himself. The followers of Jesus ought conscientiously to walk worthy of their vocation, with all lowliness, and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. If every difference of opinion were to keep men at a distance, they could subsist in no state of society, either civil or religious. The General Assembly would impress this upon the minds of their brethren, and urge them to follow peace, and the things which make for peace.

[The most showy, useful, and desirable talents shall pass away; prophecy, and knowledge, and tongues be forgotten, but love shall remain. It unites holy angels and pure human spirits. Let it be the cement of all the members of the Church of Christ on earth.]

The General Assembly commend our dear friends and brethren to the grace of God, praying that the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, may possess their hearts and minds.

Signed by order of the Assembly.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SYNOD OF VIRGINIA. | | | | |
| Redstone, | 9 | | 1 | 12 |
| Ohio. No report. | | | | |
| Hanover. No report. | | | | |
| Lexington. No report | | | | |
| Transylvania, | 11 | 2 | 4 | 21 |
| Winchester, | 5 | | | 6 |
| SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS. | | | | |
| Orange, | 19 | | 15 | 22 |
| South Carolina. No report. | | | | |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | |
| Total, | 156 | 21 | 36 | 157 |

DEATHS.—In the Presbytery of New York, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Johnes died September 15th, 1794; in that of Philadelphia, the Rev. Dr. James Sproat died October 18th, 1793, and the Rev. Isaac Foster, June . . . ., 1793; in that of New Brunswick, the Rev. Israel Reed, November 28th, 1793; and in that of Long Island, the Rev. Elam Potter, January 9th, 1794.

◆

## 1796.

PHILADELPHIA, *May 19th,* 1796.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, according to appointment, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. John McKnight, the last year's Moderator, from 2 Corinthians iv. 5: "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

*Post preces,* Messrs. Roe and Coe were appointed clerks *pro tempore,* as neither of the clerks for the past year was present.

The commissioners produced their commissions to the General Assembly, which being read, the following persons appeared to have been constitutionally appointed, and took their seats accordingly.

1. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—*Minister*—Mr. Jacob Cram.

2. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—*Ministers*—Mr. John Warford and Mr. Jonas Coe. *Elder*—Mr. Jacob D. Vander Heyden.

3. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Dr. John McKnight, Mr. Azel Roe, Mr. Peter Fish, Mr. John J. Carle. *Elders*—Mr. James Carpenter and Mr. Jacob Davis.

4. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—Mr. John Woodhull, Mr. Asa Dunham, and Doctor Samuel S. Smith. *Elders*—Colonel John Bayard and Colonel John Covenhoven.

5. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Dr. John Ewing and Dr. William M. Tennent. *Elders*—Mr. Isaac Snowden, Mr. Samuel Mann, and Mr. Thomas Reeve.

6. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Ministers*—Mr. Nathan Grier and Mr. James Latta. *Elder*—Mr. James Cumming.

7. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Dr. Robert Davidson and Mr. Cathcart.

8. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—*Ministers*—Mr. Jacob Jennings and Mr. George Hill. *Elder*—Mr. Hugh Larimore.

9. PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—*Ministers*—Mr. Thomas Moore and Mr. Boyd Mercier.

10. PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—*Minister*—Mr. Archibald Alexander.

11. PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—*Ministers*—Mr. John Bryson and Mr. David Wiley.

12. From the PRESBYTERIES OF DUTCHESS, LEWES, BALTIMORE, LEXINGTON, ORANGE, ABINGDON, SOUTH CAROLINA, WINCHESTER, AND TRANSYLVANIA, there were no commissioners present.

The Rev. Mr. Cotton Mather Smith and the Rev. Mr. Nathan Fenn appeared in the General Assembly, and produced a certificate from the General Association of the state of Connecticut, specifying their appointment to represent said Association in the General Assembly, and took their seats accordingly.

The Assembly then proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, and the Rev. Dr. Davidson was elected to that office. And the Rev. Robert Cathcart and Rev. Jonas Coe were duly elected Clerks.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last General Assembly be read.

Dr. Tennent, Messrs. Cram, Warford, Roe, Dunham, Grier, Hill, More, Alexander, and Bryson, ministers, and Messrs. Van Der Heyden, Bayard, Snowden, Larimore, Covenhoven, and Cumming, elders, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning in the Second Presbyterian church, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, in the Arch street church. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer. Members present as before.

The Rev. Dr. Alison from the Presbytery of Baltimore, the Rev. John Linn and the Rev. John Black from the Presbytery of Carlisle, ministers, and Mr. Henry Southard from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, Mr. Alexander McDonald from the Presbytery of Huntingdon, and Mr. David Smith from the Presbytery of New Castle, elders, appeared as commissioners; and their commissions having been read and approved, they took their seats accordingly.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

Dr. Alison and Mr. Black were added to the Committee of Bills and Overtures.

The books of the different Synods being called for, it was found that the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey only were present, and Mr. Latta and Mr. Black were appointed a committee to examine the same.

Dr. Alison, Mr. Woodhull, and Colonel Bayard were appointed a committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts, and report as soon as convenient.

No official reports were made by the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas respecting missions. And as no report has been made by Mr. Judd on the subject of his mission, he was ordered to report to the next General Assembly, and the Stated Clerk was directed to transmit to him a copy of the order.

Ordered, That the Synodical reports and duplicate reports from the Presbyteries be delivered in on Monday morning.

On inquiry it was found that the committee appointed to print the extracts from the minutes of the last General Assembly, had not printed them, and their reasons for omitting it were sustained.

On motion, Ordered, That Drs. Ewing and Alison be a committee to compare the transcript of the minutes of the last General Assembly with the original, and endeavour to have the mistakes which appear in the former corrected, and the deficiencies thereof supplied, taking the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, one of the last year's Clerks, to their assistance.

The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly reported, that he had given attention to the order of the General Assembly requiring him to form an Index to their minutes, that he had made some progress in the execution of the business committed to him, and hoped to complete it to the satisfaction of the Assembly in the course of the present year.

The above report was accepted.

A petition from the Presbytery of Orange was handed in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and was read, praying that some rules and regulations, from the proceedings of the former Synod of New York and Philadelphia, additional to our present discipline, should be adopted.

On motion made to dismiss the above petition, it was determined in the negative.

Adjourned to meet at half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer. Present as before.

The Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, the Rev. John Rankin from the Presbytery of Lewes, and Mr. John Murray from the Presbytery of New York, elder, appeared as commissioners, and their commissions having been read and approved, they took their seats accordingly.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The delegates who were last year appointed to meet the General Association of Connecticut, made the following report which was accepted, viz :

That the whole delegation of the Assembly attended the Association during the entire period of its sessions, and were received and treated with the utmost cordiality and respect. That the greater part of the business of the Association related, as is usual, to the peculiar circumstances of those churches of which it is constituted an advisory council. That there were two articles, however, which, as having a more extensive relation, your delegates think proper to specify. The first of these was the sending of missionaries to preach the gospel and organize churches on the frontiers of the country, in which your delegates were happy to observe the Association animated with a very laudable zeal, governed in general by a system similar to that adopted by the Assembly, and disposed fully to harmonize with them in the pursuit of the important object. The second article particularly referred to was a recommendation to the churches under the care of the Association, of seasons for special prayer for the revival of religion, in which was mentioned with approbation a plan which had already been adopted by some churches both under their care and that of the General Assembly, of appropriating to this purpose, the afternoon of the first Tuesday of every quarter of a year.

The General Assembly proceeded to the election of delegates to the next General Association of Connecticut, to meet at Norwich on Tuesday, the 21st day of June ; when it appeared that Dr. John McKnight, the Rev. Mr. Azel Roe, and the Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Irwin, were duly chosen ; and are hereby ordered to give an account of their diligence in the business of their delegation to the next General Assembly. And a copy of this minute, attested by the Stated Clerk, shall be a sufficient warrant for their appearing and acting as the representatives of this General Assembly in the General Association.

*Resolved*, That the delegates to the General Association of Connecticut be allowed two dollars per day during their attendance with the Association, and at the rate of two dollars for every forty miles in going and returning ; which sums the Treasurer is hereby ordered to pay out of the Fund of the General Assembly.

The Assembly resolved, that in electing delegates to the General Association of the state of Connecticut, the roll of the house shall be called, and every member shall nominate any number of candidates he may please, not exceeding three, the candidates to consist of any ordained ministers of the Presbyterian church. When such nomination is made, if any of the candidates present be acquainted with any circumstances which forbid their attendance on the Association, or if any member present be acquainted with any such circumstances in regard to candidates who may not be present, they shall be at liberty to make them known to the Assembly, that the names of such candidates, if it be judged expedient, may be stricken off the list. From the names which remain on the list after this procedure, an election shall be made of three members to attend the Association, which election shall be made by ballot on the opening of that sitting of the Assembly which shall immediately succeed the one at which the nomination took place.

Doctor McWhorter was appointed to supply Doctor McKnight's pulpit the third Sabbath in June, and Mr. Nathan Woodhull the fourth. Mr. Cook. was appointed to supply Mr. Roe's pulpit the third Sabbath of June, and Mr. Woodruff the fourth. Mr. Boyd to supply Mr. Irwin's pulpit the third Sabbath in June, and Mr. Gemmil the fourth.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the petition from the Presbytery of Orange, and on motion,

*Resolved*, That said petition be committed to Dr. Green, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Irwin, who are to report thereon to the next General Assembly.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 21*st*, 1796, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer. Present as before, except Doctor S. Smith, who had leave of absence the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

A motion was made and seconded that Mr. Robert Elliott, a licensed candidate from the Presbytery of Monaghan, in Ireland, and now under the care of the Presbytery of New Castle, having exhibited testimonials of his licensure and good character before a meeting of ministers and elders who assembled in York Town last year to hold the Synod of Philadelphia, the validity, authenticity, and competence of which testimonials were by them certified to the General Assembly, should be considered by the Presbytery of New Castle as a licentiate in full standing, notwithstanding the failure, in point of form, occasioned by the Synod aforesaid not having constituted, because the members attending judged there were not Presbyteries enough present to make a Synod. After some debate the final decision of the motion was postponed.

The following paper was brought into the Assembly through the Committee of Overtures and read, viz:

"At the Presbyterian church in the borough of York, on Wednesday the 28th day of October 1795, a number of members belonging to the Synod of Philadelphia met, according to adjournment, but not being a quorum, could not proceed constitutionally to business.

Doctor Davidson, the last year's Moderator, preached a sermon on 1 Corinthians i. 21: 'For after that, in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.'

There were present—of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Mr. Nathaniel Irwin. Of the Presbytery of New Castle, Mr. Colin McFarquhar, minister, and Mr. William Anderson, elder. Of the Presbytery of Baltimore, Mr.

George Lucky and Cunningham Semple, ministers, and Robert Kirkwood, elder. Of the Presbytery of Carlisle, Doctors J. King and Davidson, the Rev. Messrs. T. Lang, Thomas McPherrin, John Linn, John Black, William Paxton, John Boyd, Robert Cathcart, William Spear, David Denny, Daniel Jones, Samuel Wilson, with John Dunbar, William Harris, and John Carson, elders.

Under these circumstances, the members present agreed to meet to-morrow at 9 o'clock A. M., in hope that a quorum may by that time appear.

Thursday morning, 9 o'clock, the members above mentioned met, together with the Rev. Andrew Hunter from the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

"The Moderator of the last Synod took the chair, and a question was taken, 'Are the members present sufficient to form a Synod agreeably to the Constitution?' which was determined in the negative.

There being no prospect of other members attending, so as to constitute a Synod, it was agreed to separate. And as it appears to be the general opinion that the Moderator of last year has no power to call another meeting, that the commissioners to be sent by the Presbytery of Carlisle to the next General Assembly be requested to lay before that body the situation of the Synod of Philadelphia, and to request orders and instructions respecting the next meeting of the Synod. And as it is possible that this or other Synods may hereafter be brought into a similar situation, said commissioners were requested to submit to the General Assembly, whether it might not be expedient so to alter the Constitution as to enable any number of members who attend at the time and place to which any judicature stands adjourned, not only to adjourn from day to day till a quorum appears, but also to transact certain business, to be limited and described, and to adjourn to another time and place.

The members met also concluded, that an alteration appears necessary in the Plan of Government, respecting the meetings of the General Assembly. That considering the great extent of country from which the attendance of members is required to constitute that body, and the unavoidable expense of such attendance, it is unreasonable to expect an equal and respectable delegation while the meetings thereof are required to be annual. It is also observed, that so much of the business and concerns of the Church has gotten into the hands of that body, that the meetings of Synod are thought to be hardly necessary, and consequently are often very partially attended. It was therefore agreed to submit to the consideration of the next General Assembly, the propriety of taking constitutional measures to effect an alteration of the Plan of Government, so as to admit Assemblies to meet only once in three years, if they judge it expedient."

A motion was made and seconded, that the members who met at York were not competent to form a Synod, as they state in their representation; because there were not present three members from any two Presbyteries, distinctly considered, within the bounds of said Synod.

The previous question being moved and seconded, viz: "Shall the main question be now put?" was determined in the negative.

On motion, It was agreed to resume the consideration of Mr. Elliott's testimonials, and after some deliberation, it was determined not to receive Mr. Elliott on the recommendation of the ministers assembled at York Town in October last, until he has laid said testimonials before the Synod of Philadelphia or the General Assembly, according to the rules for receiving foreign ministers into our connection.

The Rev. John Kennedy, an ordained minister, formerly belonging to the Burgher Associate Presbytery in Ireland, and lately connected with the Associate Synod in America, requested to be taken under the care of the General Assembly, and laid his testimonials before them:—Whereupon the General Assembly agreed to take him under their care, and ordered that he connect himself with the Presbytery of New Castle.

The Rev. William Chealy, an ordained minister from South Britain, laid his credentials before the Assembly for inspection: they were accordingly inspected and approved, and he was likewise ordered to connect himself with the Presbytery of New Castle.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock on Monday morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d,* 1796—9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer. Present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last sitting were read.

It appeared that the committee appointed to attend the meeting of the Corporation of Princeton College, relative to certain funds under the control of this Assembly, were not able to execute the business committed to them; but the following extract from the records of the corporation aforesaid, was laid before the Assembly, viz:

"1. *Resolved,* That each of the several funds mentioned in the said report be debited with its proportion of the losses sustained by depreciation, bad debts, and abatement of interest, during the war, at the rate of sixty-six per cent., agreeably to the statement of the Committee of Accounts.

2. *Resolved,* That the Board will appropriate the interest arising on the money deposited with them by Messrs. Tennent and Davies in the year 1755, to the education of such poor and pious youth as shall be nominated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church; which money, after making the deductions stated in the first resolution, is one hundred and fifty-two pounds six shillings and five pence.

3. *Resolved,* That the interest arising on the two hundred pounds sterling, heretofore agreed between the Synod and the Board to be equivalent to three hundred pounds currency, given for the support of an Indian missionary, or the support of a youth to be educated for the purpose of preaching to the Indians, shall be appropriated by the Board to the education of a youth designated by the General Assembly. This sum to be subjected to the same deductions as specified in the last resolution, and which, when thus reduced, is one hundred and two pounds currency.

Ordered, That the Clerk send a copy of the above resolutions to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. A true copy.

ASHBEL GREEN, *Clerk pro tempore.*"

The committee appointed to correct the inaccuracies and supply the deficiencies in the transcript of the minutes of the last year's Assembly, by comparing it with the originals, reported—That the inaccuracies have been corrected by a recourse to the original minutes; but that no record or paper could be found which might enable them to fill up the blanks.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey, and the Synod of the Carolinas, brought in their reports, together with duplicates from the Presbyteries, which were read, and are as follows:

The Synod of New York and New Jersey, at their sessions in October, 1795, reported to the General Assembly agreeably to their direction, that the Synod consisted of five Presbyteries, viz: Dutchess, Long Island, Albany, New York, and New Brunswick.

1. The Presbytery of Albany consists of ten ministers, all of whom have charges. They have ten vacancies, each able to support a minister; and four not able. They have admitted one minister from Dutchess Presbytery,

and installed him pastor of a certain congregation. They have one licentiate. One of their members has been deposed; and one of their members has been removed by death, as appears from their Report to the Synod, No. 1.

2. The Presbytery of Long Island consists of twelve ministers; eight of whom have charges, and four have not charges. They have four vacancies, each able to support a minister. They have two licentiates under their care. They have received one member from an Association in Massachusetts; and dismissed one member and one licentiate, as appears from their Report to Synod, No. 2.

3. The Presbytery of New York consists of twenty-four ministers, twenty-one of whom have charges, one the charge of the academy at Hackensack; and two have not charges. They have four vacancies, each able to support a minister; and four, in their united capacity, able to support two ministers; and two not yet able. They have one licentiate, as appears from their Report No. 3.

4. The Presbytery of New Brunswick consists of eighteen ministers, fifteen of whom have charges; one is president of the College of New Jersey, and two have not charges. They have two vacancies, each able to support a minister; two, in their united capacity, able to support one minister; and five not yet able. They have two licentiates under their care, as appears from their Report No. 4.

5. Dutchess Presbytery made no report.

The Synod further reported, that since the reports of the Presbyteries above alluded to, and herewith laid before the General Assembly, were brought in, the Synod had dissolved the Presbytery of Dutchess, and erected a new Presbytery to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Hudson, to comprehend all the ministers and churches which composed the Presbytery of Dutchess, together with the following members of the Presbytery of New York, namely, Mr. Ker, Mr. Close, Mr. King, Mr. Joline, and Mr. Freeman, and their churches, and the vacant churches between the middle range of the southern mountains in Orange county, and the southern boundary of the Presbytery of Albany on the west side of the Hudson river.

JOHN RODGERS, *Stated Clerk.*

The report of the Synod of the Carolinas, in which are four Presbyteries:

*Presbytery of Orange*—Reverends Henry Patillo, David Caldwell, William More, David Kerr, William Hodge, James McGready, Colin Lindsay, Angus McDermid, John Robinson, James Bonman, Samuel Stanford. *Licentiates*—William McGee, Curry Barnett, John Rankin, William Thompson, Samuel McAdow, William Prosly, John Anderson. *Candidates*—John Gillespie, Robert Foster, Barton Stone; there are seven vacancies.

*Presbytery of South Carolina*—Reverends Joseph Alexander, John Simpson, Thomas Reese, D. D., James Templeton, Thomas McCaul, Daniel Thatcher, Francis Cummins, Robert Hall, Robert McCullock, William Davis, James W. Stephenson, Robert M. Cunningham, John Brown, Robert Wilson, Moses Waddle, William Williamson, Robert B. Walker, William Montgomery, David Dunlap. *Probationers*—Samuel Young, John Foster, Andrew Brown, John Kennedy, William Roseborough.

*Presbytery of Abington*—No report.

*Presbytery of Concord*—Reverends Samuel E. McCorkle, D. D., James Hall, James McRee, David Barr, S. C. Caldwell, James Wallis, Joseph Kilpatrick, Humphrey Hunter, Lewis F. Wilson, John Carrigan, Alexander Caldwell, John M. Wilson. *Probationers*—John Bonnar, Samuel Davis, Samuel Holmes, James Adams, John Andrews. *Candidates*—James Gillespie, Thomas Price, George Means; there are thirteen vacancies.

The Presbyteries of Philadelphia, New Castle, and Huntingdon, of the Synod of Philadelphia, and also the Presbytery of Ohio, brought in their reports, which were read and ordered to be put on the files.

As it appeared from the representation of ministers and elders assembled at York Town, the 20th of October, 1795, and signed Robert Davidson, that the Synod of Philadelphia did not meet according to its last adjournment, nor since the time to which it was adjourned, on motion,

*Resolved*, That the Moderator of the Synod of Philadelphia, the Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, ought to be considered as competent to call a meeting of the same, and that he do accordingly call a meeting, to be held in the Third Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the fourth Wednesday of October next; and that he give due notice thereof by a circular letter to the Moderators of the several Presbyteries composing the said Synod, whose duty it shall be to acquaint the other members. After considering further the preceding representation, on motion,

*Resolved*, As the opinion of the Assembly, that from the nature of the thing, two or more members of any judicatory, meeting according to adjournment, may adjourn from day to day until a sufficient number attend for the transacting of business; and in case a quorum should not attend within a reasonable time, that the Moderator shall be considered as competent to fix any time and place he may judge proper for convening the body; and if he be absent, that the members assembled shall represent the matter speedily to him that he may act accordingly.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly dismiss the consideration of that part of the petition laid before them by the members of the Synod of Philadelphia, requesting that that part of the constitution may be altered which requires the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to meet once in every year.

Adjourned to meet at half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Thatcher reported, that he had spent twelve months in fulfilling the mission appointed him by the General Assembly, and that he had received from the people to whom he had preached, thirty-four pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence.

Mr. Porter and Mr. McClean reported, that they had spent three months each in fulfilling the different missions appointed them by the General Assembly, and had received seven pounds nine shillings and one penny.

These three missionaries informed the General Assembly that most of the places where they had preached, appeared to be sensible of the care and attention of the General Assembly in sending missionaries to preach the gospel among them, and requested a continuance of missionaries, as there was every appearance that the most important advantages would result from the prosecution of the plan.

The General Assembly heard with approbation the circumstantial narratives of the Rev. Mr. Thatcher, Mr. Porter, and Mr. McClean, respecting the state of religion and the societies in the places where they had preached; and approved of the fidelity and diligence with which the above missionaries fulfilled their respective missions.

Mr. Sample, another of the missionaries, not being present, his journal, which he had forwarded to the General Assembly, was read. On motion,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Sample has not fulfilled his mission according to the directions of the General Assembly, as it appears from his own account that he has not pursued the route pointed out to him, and has preached part of his time in congregations which do not come under the description of those to which he was limited in his commission; and that the pay for one month which he has already received is a sufficient compensation for his services. And the Treasurer is hereby ordered to settle with him accordingly.

Mr. Armstrong, the alternate commissioner in case of Dr. S. S. Smith's absence, appeared and took his seat.

Messrs. Latta, Linn, Warford, Jennings, and Moore, ministers, and Mr. Southard, elder, were appointed a committee to arrange the missionary business, to meet in this church at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning, and to report as soon as possible.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th*, 1796, 9 *A. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer. Present as before.

Mr. Isaac Hutton, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Albany, appeared as a commissioner, and his commission having been read and approved, he took his seat accordingly.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts of the General Assembly, delivered their report, which was approved and is as follows, viz:

The committee appointed by the General Assembly have examined the accounts of Mr. Snowden, their Treasurer, since the last settlement, and have seen his vouchers, and find them just and true, and that there is a balance of two hundred and seventy-six pounds seventeen shillings and ten pence in the hands of said Treasurer, due to the General Assembly.

Signed PATRICK ALISON,
JOHN WOODHULL,
JOHN BAYARD.

*May 24th*, 1796.

The committee appointed to revise the proofs of the Confession of Faith, &c., and to superintend the publication and sale thereof, reported,

That they had made considerable progress in the work, and had part of the book ready for publication, but that for want of sufficient funds they were not able to proceed in the publication of it.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the committee proceed to have an impression of the Confession of Faith, &c., struck off as soon as in their power, and that they take the best measures they can devise to have it executed and upon the most reasonable terms, and that there be four thousand copies struck off; and that subscription papers be prepared as soon as possible, and distributed throughout the bounds of the General Assembly, and the members are hereby requested to interest themselves in procuring subscribers for assisting the funds of the General Assembly in defraying the expenses of the work.

*Resolved*, also, That the price of the book be one dollar to subscribers.

Ordered, That the Treasurer of the General Assembly pay into the hands of the committee the sum of three hundred dollars, to enable them to prosecute the business.

*Resolved*, That the committee be empowered to employ a proper person to correct the proof sheets, to assist in the business generally, and that they be authorized to draw on the Treasurer for such sums as may be thought a reasonable compensation ; and in case there is no money in his hands, then the Treasurer is directed to borrow money on as good terms as he can for that purpose.

Mr. Judd, the missionary appointed by the General Assembly in 1794, sent forward a narrative of his mission which was read and approved.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay him the balance due him for his services.

Adjourned to meet at half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer. Present as before.

The Rev. William Boyd, of New Brunswick Presbytery, appeared as a commissioner, and his commission having been read and approved, he took his seat accordingly.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, that they had examined them as far as page 72, and found them accurately and carefully kept. The Assembly accepted and approved of their report.

The committee on the subject of missionaries, reported according to order. The report having been read and examined, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

The committee on the subject of missionaries met—Mr. Latta, Mr. Linn, Mr. Warford, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Southard, present. Mr. Latta was chosen Moderator, and Mr. Warford, Clerk.

On the subject of their appointment, they agreed,

1st. That Mr. Thatcher be appointed a missionary for the term of one year, to commence his labours as soon as convenient, and proceed on the route prescribed to him last year, except where he shall judge it more for the interest of the Church of Christ to extend his labours into adjacent settlements; and that he pay particular attention to those places whence applications have been received, and where he believes the stated administration of gospel ordinances may most easily be accomplished.

2d. That Mr. Read, of the Presbytery of New Castle, be appointed a missionary for the term of two months on the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia, to begin his labours in Queen Ann's county, to proceed from thence through Talbot, Caroline, Dorset, Somerset, Accomack, through Northampton, the bay side, to Cape Charles; paying particular attention to the more destitute settlements and churches as his prudence will direct.

3d. That Mr. Cram be appointed a missionary for two months, commencing from about the first of September next, beginning his labours somewhere within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Redstone and Ohio, and that he call on some of the members of one or both of these Presbyteries to receive information relative to those settlements which are not as yet organized, and which they are unable to supply; among whom his labours should be employed during said term.

4th. That Mr. Harris be appointed a missionary for the term of three months, to commence his labours as soon as convenient; and that he pursue the same route prescribed to Mr. McClean last year, except where he should believe it to be for the interest of religion to turn aside from one settlement to labour in another.

*Resolved,* That the salaries of the missionaries shall be at the rate of forty dollars per month, and that the Treasurer advance to Mr. Thatcher one hundred dollars, and to each of the others, if required, one month's salary; and that the missionaries account with the General Assembly for any moneys which may be voluntarily raised for their support in any places where they may preach.

Ordered, That the commissions of the missionaries be signed by the Moderator, and attested by the Clerks of the present General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly shall meet next year at Philadelphia, in the First Presbyterian church, on the third Thursday of May, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

An overture to recommend seasons for special prayer, was laid before the Assembly by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and after considerable deliberation, the whole of it was postponed.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer. Present as before, except Mr. Dunham and Mr. Southard, who had leave of absence the remaining part of the sessions.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

It was overtured, that a committee be appointed to select from the books of Hymns already published, such a collection as may be suited to the several doctrines and precepts of the gospel, and to the different conditions and circumstances of the Christian Church, paying a strict regard to the direction of the Apostle in Ephesians v. 19 and 20, and Colossians iii. 16 and 17.

On motion, *Resolved*, That said overture lie on the table.

The General Assembly, taking into serious consideration the general aspect of religion, the great decay of vital piety, and the prevalence of infidelity and immorality, and being deeply affected thereby, (especially considering the many blessings which as a nation and a people we enjoy,) agreed to urge, in the most earnest manner, upon all their members, the utmost diligence, perseverance, and zeal, in the discharge of the duties of their offices and stations; and that they prosecute those measures agreeably to the word of God, which they may judge most conducive to counteract the existing evils, and most effectually serve the interests of evangelical principles, and of true and undefiled religion; and would recommend that some particular times be set apart as special seasons of prayer with respect to those objects, as may be found most convenient in their respective circumstances.

The Committee of Overtures brought in a letter, from the congregation of Ovid in Onondaga county, state of New York, lately formed into a society, requesting that as many ministers as possible may be sent to preach to them, as they are at present in a destitute condition. After some conversation on the subject, it was allowed that the General Assembly have already done as much as they consistently can in this business, by ordering some of their missionaries to spend as much time in this congregation as prudence will direct.

The committee appointed to prepare a draft of a charter to incorporate trustees for certain purposes therein specified, reported, that they had made considerable progress in the business. Whereupon the Assembly agreed to recommit the whole to the same committee, who are to finish the business and report to the next General Assembly.

Ordered, That Doctor Tennent, Doctor John Smith, Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Snowden, be a committee, to have such parts of the minutes of the past and present sessions of the General Assembly as they may judge will be of advantage to the Church, printed, together with an account of the collections made agreeably to the order of the General Assembly for defraying the expenses of sending missionaries to preach the gospel on the frontiers.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk be allowed twenty-five dollars as a compensation for his services for the present year, and also to the door-keeper for his services and other incidental expenses, the sum of £5 17*s.* 6*d.*, to be paid by the Treasurer.

Adjourned to meet at half-past three o'clock P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer. Present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Ordered, That the copies of proposals for printing the Confession of Faith &c., of this Church, be sent to the different Presbyteries under this General Assembly's care, and that the members forward as soon as possible the different sums of money which they may have received, to Mr. Isaac Snowden, the Treasurer of the General Assembly, in order that the work may be published with all convenient speed.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia on the third Thursday of May, 1797, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Whereupon, the Moderator dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution, and concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1796.

### SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany, | 10 | | 1 | 14 |
| Long Island, | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| New York, | 21 | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| New Brunswick, | 15 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| Dutchess, resolved into Presbytery of Hudson. | | | | |
| SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA. | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 12 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| New Castle, | 10 | 2 | 3 | 15 |
| Carlisle, | 17 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| Huntingdon, | 9 | 1 | | 14 |
| Baltimore. No report. | | | | |
| Lewes. No report. | | | | |
| SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS. | | | | |
| Orange, | 12 | | 7 | 7 |
| Concord, | 12 | | 5 | 13 |
| South Carolina, | 19 | | 5 | |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | |
| SYNOD OF VIRGINIA. | | | | |
| Redstone. No report. | | | | |
| Ohio. | 7 | 1 | | 10 |
| Hanover. No report. | | | | |
| Lexington. No report. | | | | |
| Transylvania. No report. | | | | |
| Winchester. No report. | | | | |
| Total, | 152 | 21 | 28 | 108 |

DEATHS.—In the Presbytery of Albany the Rev. John Thompson died, 1795; in the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon died, November, 1794; in the Presbytery of Huntingdon, the Rev. James Martin died, June, 1795.

## 1797.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 18*th*, 1797.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, according to appointment, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, the last year's Moderator, from Psalm lxxii. 17: "His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun; and men shall be blessed in him; all nations shall call him blessed."

After prayer the commissioners produced their commissions which were read in the Assembly, agreeably to the constitutional order, and it appeared that the following members were duly appointed, viz:

1. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—*Ministers*—Doctor John B. Smith and Simon Hossack. *Elder*—Alexander Kelly.

2. PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—*Ministers*—Jonathan Truman, Methuselah Baldwin.

3. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—*Minister*—William Schenck.

4. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Doctor John Rodgers, Jedediah Chapman, James Richards. *Elders*—Benjamin Corray, Jonas Philips, Nath. Little.

5. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—James F. Armstrong, John Woodhull, Robert Finley. *Elders*—John Bayard, Henry Southard, Peter Gordon.

6. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Doctor William M. Tennent, Ashbel Green, John Davenport. *Elder*—John McCulloch.

7. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Ministers*—William Arthur, Francis A. Latta, Nathan Grier. *Elders*—Eleazer McComb, John Whitehill, William Hunter.

8. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Doctor Robert Davidson, John Black, Robert Cathcart, William Spear. *Elder*—Benjamin Blythe.

9. PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—*Minister*—John Collins.

10. PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—*Ministers*—Doctor Patrick Alison, Adam Freeman, John Brackenridge.

11. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—*Ministers*—William Swan, Samuel Porter.

12. PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—*Ministers*—Samuel Ralston, James Hughes.

13. PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—*Minister*—William Hill. *Elder*—Alexander White.

14. PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—*Minister*—James Bowman.

15. PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—*Minister*—Mr. Joseph Kirkpatrick.

16. PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—*Minister*—William C. Davis.

From the PRESBYTERIES OF HUNTINGDON, LEXINGTON, HANOVER, ABINGDON AND TRANSYLVANIA, there were no commissioners.

The Rev. David Tullar and Stephen W. Stibbins appeared in the Assembly, and produced testimonials of their appointment by the General Association of the state of Connecticut, to represent that body in this Assembly. They took their seats accordingly.

The Rev. Dr. William M. Tennent was chosen Moderator of the Assembly, and Mr. Robert Finley and Mr. Francis A. Latta were chosen Clerks.

By order, The minutes of the last Assembly were read.

The Rev. Simon Hossack, Jonathan Freeman, William Schenck, James Richards, John Woodhull, John Davenport, Nathan Grier, Doctor Robert Davidson, John Collins, Adam Freeman, William Swan, Samuel Ralston, William Hill, James Bowman, Joseph Kirkpatrick, William C. Davis, David Tullar, with Messrs. Alexander White, Alexander Kelly, Benjamin Corray, John Bayard, William Hunter, Eleazer McComb, elders, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterward on their own adjournments.

Ordered, That the records of the several Synods be brought in to-morrow morning.

Dr. Patrick Alison, Mr. Cathcart, and Mr. Bayard were appointed a committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts.

Ordered, That the reports of the several Synods, with the duplicates of the several Presbyteries, be brought in to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*Friday, May 19th.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Zechariah Lawrence, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, appeared and produced his commission, which being read and approved, he took his seat accordingly.

Dr. Davidson and Dr. Alison were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Chapman were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Arthur were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

The Synods of New York and New Jersey, of Philadelphia, and of the Carolinas, brought in their reports, which were read, and ordered to be put upon record, and are as follows:

The Synod of New York and New Jersey report to the General Assembly, that their body consists of five Presbyteries, Long Island, Hudson, Albany, New York, and New Brunswick.

The Presbytery of Long Island consists of eleven ministers, of whom seven have charges, and four have not charges. Their vacant congregations, able to support ministers, are five; there are three which are not able. They have three licentiates, as appears by No. 1.

The Presbytery of Hudson consists of eight ministers, seven of whom have charges, and one has not a charge. There are within the bounds of the Presbytery seven vacancies, able to support three ministers, as appears by No. 2.

The Presbytery of Albany consists of thirteen ministers, of whom nine have charges, three have not charges, and one is President of Union College in Schenectady. There are within the bounds of the Presbytery nineteen vacancies, of which twelve are able to support the ministry of the gospel, as appears by No. 3.

The Presbytery of New York consists of eighteen ministers, fifteen of whom have charges, and three have not charges. There are within the bounds of the Presbytery seven vacancies, of which five singly, and two united, are able to support the ministry of the gospel. It has under its care three licentiates, as appears by No. 4.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick consists of nineteen ministers, fifteen of whom have charges, three have not charges, and one is President of the College of New Jersey. It has under its care one licentiate. There are within the bounds of the Presbytery twelve vacancies, eleven of which are able, by a proper union, to support five ministers, and one is not able, as appears by No. 5.

JOHN RODGERS, *Stated Clerk.*

Report of the Synod of the Carolinas, met at Morganton, November 3d, 1796, to the General Assembly to meet at Philadelphia, May, 1797.

No member from Orange Presbytery attended Synod, and therefore no report was made by that Presbytery; nor was any report made by the members present from Abingdon, for reasons assigned by those members, and sustained by Synod.

The Presbytery of South Carolina report that they consist of ministers, churches, &c., as follows:—Rev. Joseph Alexander, Bullocks-creek; Rev. John Simpson, two charges; Rev. Thomas Reese, D. D., deceased July 28th, 1796; Rev. James Templeton, Nazareth and Fair View, *pro tem.;* Rev. Thomas H. McCaulle, deceased, September 14th, 1796; Rev. Daniel Thatcher, dismissed to join Hudson Presbytery; Rev. Francis Cummins, Rocky River and Hopewell; Rev. Robert Hall, no charge; Rev. John Newton, Bethsalem and New Hope; Rev. John Springer, Smyrna, Liberty, and Providence; Rev. Robert McCulloch, Catholic and Purity; Rev. John Brown, Waxhaws; Rev. Robert Wilson, Longcane and Greenville; Rev. Moses Waddel, Carmel and Joppa; Rev. William Williamson, Fair Forest; Rev. Robert B. Walker, Bethesda; Rev. William Montgomery, Siloam and Little Britain; Rev. David Dunlap, Columbia; Rev. Samuel Young, Lebanon; Rev. John Foster, Salem; Rev. John B. Kennady, Dirnian's Creek and Little River; Rev. James Gilliland, Broadway; Rev. George G. McWhorter, Bethel and Beersheba. *Probationers*—Andrew Brown, William Roseborough, John Couser, and John B. Davis. *Candidate*—George Reid. *Vacancies*—Ebenezer and Lower Fishing Creek, able; Carmel and Hopewell, able; Richardson, Unity; John's Island and Wadmilaw, able; James' Island, able; Dorchester, able; Orangeburg and Turkeyhill, able; Hopewell and Aimwell, able; Beaver Creek, Hanging Rock, North Pacolet, Fish Dam, Newton, Liberty Spring, Concord.

Presbytery of Concord report, that they consist of ministers, churches, &c., as follows:

Dr. Samuel McCorkle, Thyatira; Rev. James Hall, Bethany; Rev. James McKee, Slate Creek; Rev. David Barr, Philadelphia; Rev. James Wallis, New Providence; Rev. Samuel Caldwell, Sugar Creek and Hopewell; Rev. J. D. Kilpatrick, Third Creek and Unity; Rev. Lewis F. Wilson, Fourth Creek and Concord; Rev. Humphrey Hunter, Goshen and Unity; Rev. Alexander Caldwell, Rocky River and Poplar Tent; Rev. John M. Wilson, Quaker Widows and Morgantown; Rev. John Caragan, Ramah and Bethpage. *Licentiates* —John Andrews, James Gillespie, James Adams, Samuel Davis, Thomas Newton, George Newton. *Candidates*—Thomas Price, George Means. *Vacancies*—Centre, able to support a minister; Jersey Settlement, not; Joppa, Mineral Spring, Chesnut Spring, Swananoa, Lane Creek and Great Plain of French Broad, able to support a minister; Little Britain and Mountain Creek, able to support a minister; Pleasant Garden, Salem, Knobb Creek, Smyrna, Moriah.

Attest, SAMUEL E. MCCORKLE, *Stated Synod Clerk.*

The Synod of Philadelphia report to the General Assembly, that the said Synod comprises six Presbyteries, as follows:

The Presbytery of Philadelphia, consisting of fourteen ministers, of whom twelve only have pastoral charges, viz:

Rev. Dr. John Ewing, pastor of First Presbyterian church, Philadelphia; Rev. Samuel Blair, without charge; Rev. James Boyd, pastor of Newton and Bensalem; Rev. Dr. William M. Tennent, Abington, Norristown, and Providence; Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Forks of Neshaminy; Rev. John Davenport, Deerfield; Rev. Andrew Hunter, Woodbury; Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, Second Presbyterian church, Philadelphia; Rev. Evan Jones, without a charge; Rev. Ethan Osborne, pastor of Fairfield; Rev. John Gemmil, Great Valley and Charleston; Rev. Abijah Davis, Cape May; Rev. William Clarkson, Greenwich and Bridge Town, and Rev. Samuel Leacock, Pitts Grove.

The Presbytery of New Castle, consisting of thirteen ministers, of whom only ten have pastoral charges, viz:

Rev. William McKennan, pastor of Red Clay Creek; Rev. James Latta, Chesnut Level; Rev. Colin McFarquhar, Donegal; Rev. Alexander Mitchell, without charge; Rev. John McCreary, pastor of White Clay Creek and Head of Christiana; Rev. Thomas Read, pastor of Drawyers; Rev. Nathaniel W. Semple, pastor of Middle Octarara, Leacock, and Lancaster; Rev. Samuel Barr, without a charge; Rev. Nathan Grier, pastor of Brandywine; Rev. William Arthur, pastor of Pequa; Rev. William Cheally, pastor of Pencader and Middleton, in Delaware state; Rev. Francis Hindman, without a charge; Rev. John Kennedy, without a charge.

The Presbytery of Carlisle, consisting of twenty ministers, of whom only sixteen have pastoral charges, viz: Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit, President of Dickinson College; Rev. Robert Cooper, pastor of Middle Spring; Rev. James Lang, pastor of East Connegocheague; Rev. Dr. John King, pastor of Upper West Connegocheague; Rev. Thomas McPherrin, pastor of Lower West Connegocheague; Rev. John Craighead, pastor of Rocky Spring; Rev. John Black, without a charge; Rev. John Linn, pastor of Sherman's Valley; Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, pastor of Carlisle; Rev. Samuel Waugh, pastor of East Pennsborough and Monaghan; Rev. Daniel Jones, without a charge; Rev. Joseph Henderson, without a charge; Rev. Samuel Wilson, pastor of Big Spring; Rev. James Snodgrass, pastor of Hanover; Rev. William Paxton, pastor of Lower Marsh Creek; Rev. Robert Cathcart, pastor of York and Hopewell; Rev. Nathaniel Snowden, pastor of Harrisburgh; Rev. David Denny, pastor of Path Valley; Rev. John Boyd, pastor of Tuscarora and Falling Waters; Rev. William Speer, pastor of Falling Spring.

The Presbyteries of Baltimore, Lewes, and Huntingdon.—From these last the Synod have received no report since their last return to the General Assembly, to which they beg leave to refer. By order of the Synod.

NATHANIEL IRWIN, *Stated Clerk.*

*Philadelphia, October 27th,* 1796.

The Synod of Virginia made no report.

Ordered, That Dr. Smith, Mr. Finley, and Mr. Black, be a committee to select for publication, such parts of the minutes of the present General Assembly as they may judge to be of general utility, and that they cause seven hundred and fifty copies thereof, when printed, to be distributed among the Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly.

On motion, Ordered, That in future the reports of the Synods, after being read, be committed, and that the committee make a general report to be entered on the minutes.

The last delegates to the General Association of Connecticut made no report.

Ordered, That they report to the next General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the compensation to the delegates to the General Association be the same as last year.

On motion, Mr. William Boyd, Mr. Robert Finley, and Mr. Samuel Snowden, were appointed a committee to attend the next meeting of the Trustees of New Jersey College, to determine the application of the money in their funds which is subject to the order of the General Assembly; and the Stated Clerk was ordered to furnish them with an attested copy of this minute.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures brought in an address from the Synod of New York and New Jersey to the General Assembly, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Friday, May* 19, 3½ *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

The General Assembly proceeded to ballot for delegates to the next General Association of the state of Connecticut, to meet at Wyndham, the third Tuesday of June next, when it appeared that Mr. James F. Armstrong, Mr. Samuel Miller, and Mr. James Richards, were duly chosen, and the Stated Clerk is ordered to furnish them with an attested copy of this minute, which shall be a sufficient warrant for their appearing and acting as the representatives of the General Assembly in the General Association. Rev. Andrew Hunter was ordered to supply the pulpit of Mr. James Armstrong at Trenton, the third Sabbath of June, and at Maidenhead the fourth; and James Boyd the first Sabbath of July at Trenton. Mr. Robert H. Chapman to supply the pulpit of Mr. Samuel Miller on the third Sabbath of June, and Mr. Jedediah Chapman the fourth Sabbath; and Mr. Aaron Condict to supply Mr. Jedediah Chapman's pulpit the same day. Dr. Green was appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. James Richards on the third Sabbath of June, and Mr. Francis A. Latta that of Dr. Green in his absence. Mr. J. Carle to supply Mr. James Richards' pulpit the fourth Sabbath of June, and Mr. Amzi Armstrong the first Sabbath of July.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the petition from the Presbytery of Orange was brought in and read, and the consideration thereof was postponed till to-morrow morning. The committee appointed to superintend the printing of the Confession of Faith, brought in their report, which was read, and the consideration thereof postponed till to-morrow morning.

The General Assembly heard the reports of Mr. Cram and Mr. Thatcher, two of their missionaries, and highly approved the diligence and judgment they manifested in the execution of their missions.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*Saturday, May 20th.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

A letter from Mr. Nathaniel Harris, appointed a missionary last year, was brought in and read, assigning reasons for his not having executed his mission, which were accepted.

The committee appointed to procure a Charter of Incorporation, &c., made a report on the subject of their appointment, which was approved. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That, as certain difficulties have prevented the accomplishment of the business assigned them, they be continued, and directed to prepare a plan of incorporation to be laid before the present or next General Assembly.

Dr. Smith, Mr. Black, and Mr. Hill, ministers, with Mr. Southard and Mr. McCullough, elders, were appointed a committee to arrange the missionary business for the ensuing year, to report on Tuesday morning next.

The report of the committee to superintend the printing of the Confession of Faith, was brought in, read, and approved. Whereupon,

Ordered, That the committee be continued; and they were directed to make a statement of their accounts and lay it before the next General Assembly. It was also, on motion,

Ordered, That the same committee be directed to report to this Assembly on Monday morning next, a suitable person to be employed in vending the books, and the commission he may require on the business.

The consideration of the petition from the Presbytery of Orange was now resumed; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Nathaniel Irwin be appointed to select from the proceedings of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, such rules and regulations as appear to merit attention, and lay them before the next General Assembly, for their consideration, for which service he shall receive a reasonable compensation; and the Stated Clerk was ordered to inform him of his appointment.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported that they had executed their trust, and the book was approved to page 97.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly have examined the accounts of Mr. Isaac Snowden their Treasurer, and the vouchers for the same since the last settlement, and find them just and true; and that there is a balance of one hundred and seventy-six pounds, two shillings and two pence, in the hands of the Treasurer due to the General Assembly.

PATRICK ALISON,
ROBERT CATHCART,
JOHN BAYARD.

The address* from the Synod of New York and New Jersey, recom-

---

* The address was as follows:

*To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in North America, to be convened in Philadelphia on the* 18*th day of May*, 1797.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey, impressed with the importance of maintaining a friendly and Christian correspondence, as far as it may be practicable, with all churches who profess the same precious faith which is our hope and consolation, beg leave to recommend to your reverend body to establish, in the name of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, such an intercourse of reciprocal communications with the different churches of Christ in Europe and America, especially with those that are most nearly assimilated to us in principles and ecclesiastical government, as may tend to the greater union of the whole; and to diffuse among all that general intelligence and information that may be most necessary for the common interests of religion.

By epistles of this kind, the Apostles edified and established the churches which they had planted by their labours in different regions; and the churches of the various and remote nations that composed the Roman empire, and even those beyond its boundaries, cultivated for one another those fraternal sentiments, and preserved that harmony of discipline and doctrine for which they were distinguished.

It is desirable to be acquainted with the state of principles and discipline in different quarters of the Christian world. It is useful to be informed of the various divisions that exist, or may spring up among Christians, that sincere believers may study, in concert, the most probable means, under the divine blessing, to restrain, or to heal them. And in an age like the present, when all the enemies of religion are uncommonly vigilant and active, it seems to be more necessary than ever to cement the union of the disciples of Christ, to be informed of the progress or decline of our common faith, and to agree, if possible, in common measures for its establishment and defence.

If we may be permitted to suggest a subordinate end of that extensive correspondence which we have here ventured to recommend, it may contribute at length to form an useful repository of materials for the future history of religion. If it is conducted with intelligence and zeal, and pursued to that extent which we contemplate, it may eventually serve to furnish the most authentic documents for that portion of history which is most interesting and instructive, and which respects the manners and habits—the state of mending that measures be taken to form an extensive and friendly communication with other churches, was referred to a committee composed of Dr. Alison, Dr. Davidson, Mr. Stebbins, Mr. Cathcart, and Mr. Porter, to report on Monday morning.

Mr. Thatcher and Mr. Cram were nominated as missionaries for the ensuing year.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock on Monday morning next.

Concluded with prayer.

*Monday morning, May 22d.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee to which was referred the address from the Synod of New York and New Jersey, recommending that measures be taken to form an extensive and friendly correspondence with other churches, brought in the following report:

"Report of the committee on the address of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

When a plan so benevolent in its nature, and honourable to the enlarged conceptions of its authors, as the one contained in this address, solicits attention, the task becomes painful which requires a detail of the obstacles unfavourable to its adoption or success. In order to commence the correspondence proposed, a more accurate acquaintance with the address of foreign churches appears requisite, than is at present possessed, as the smallest inaccuracy here might have an injurious tendency. The channels of intelligence at the present period are likewise interrupted and obstructed in an uncommon degree, rendering the conveyance of letters highly precarious. The disorders and convulsions of the European world, also, afford little ground to expect a calm, deliberate attention to any new proposal from a distant region, which, however harmless or laudable in itself, might excite fear and apprehension on one part, with jealousy and suspicion on another. Nor should it be forgotten that former advances of the like kind, made under far more auspicious circumstances, afford little encouragement to renew them. Neither does the history of the Christian church, since it became divided into various persuasions, afford inviting instances, we believe, of the design under con-

---

opinion and government—and the advancement or decline of the spirit of true religion in the successsive periods of the Church.

In this system of correspondence, we beg leave to recommend, besides those connections that have already been formed with the churches of Connecticut and Massachusetts, that similar relations be established with the Dutch Reformed, and Associate churches in America, and that periodical communications be attempted to be reciprocally made and obtained between your body and all the Protestant churches in our own country, those in different countries in Europe, and, if it be deemed practicable, even with the Greek Church of Russia, or others that you may judge proper in various regions of the globe.

The magnitude of the idea, we hope, will not discourage the servants of Christ from undertaking any labours, or making any efforts that may contribute to increase the union and harmony of his body; to extend the common intelligence of all its parts with one another; and to promote their vigour and co-operation in advancing the glory of God, and the highest interests of the human race.

With all due respect to your reverend and venerable body, we are your brethren and servants in the gospel of our common Lord.

Signed in the name, and by the order of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

JEDEDIAH CHAPMAN, *Moderator.*

Done in Synod, in the city of New York, on the
20th of October, in the year of our Lord, 1796.

templation having been frequently attempted, or attended with beneficial consequences. Some of the same remarks apply to the intercourse projected between other denominations in this country and our own, with whom the correspondence moved by us proved of short duration, and yielded no salutary effect. Repeated applications of the same kind from the same quarter may give rise to unfavourable surmises of latent designs, or create suspicions of a meddling dictatorial temper. No considerable change has happened since the preceding effort proved fruitless, to produce a repetition of it. And perhaps the best method of promoting a more intimate connection among various communions is to cultivate a good understanding with each other by personal communications and familiar acquaintance, till predispositions arise for a more intimate relation. It is natural for different denominations to be most tenacious of their peculiar distinctions, whether they regard objects essential or indifferent. Here they wish others to adopt, or fear others have an intention to invade. In the course of communicating sentiments, it is entirely within the compass of probability, that something of the kind might be touched which would lead to troublesome discussions without producing a desirable conclusion. Were the prospects of success in the premises even more flattering, our judicatures, it is presumed, find abundant employment in upholding their existence, and discharging their functions; they therefore may not act prudently in extending their services, and voluntarily augmenting the sphere of laborious, expensive, and troublesome action. Nevertheless, seeing time and trial often show the defectiveness of arguments which seem conclusive, to keep alive the hope of being able to engage in the great design recommended, under some of its aspects, and at some future day, it appears desirable, and may prove useful, for the members of our church to make such inquiries as their prudence shall dictate, and such observations on the subject as opportunity shall afford, and communicate the result at seasonable periods, whereby a subsequent Assembly can form an enlightened judgment concerning the practicability, expediency, and utility of a measure which may be declined at present.

Which is submitted.

PATRICK ALISON,
ROBERT DAVIDSON,
STEPHEN W. STEBBINS,
SAMUEL PORTER,
ROB'T CATHCART."

Which report was approved, and the Stated Clerk was directed to transmit a copy of the same to the said Synod.

The committee appointed to agree with a suitable person to vend the new edition of the Confession of Faith, made a report to the Assembly which was accepted, and thereupon it was

*Resolved*, That Mr. Robert Aitken be employed to dispose of the books, and that Dr. Green, Mr. John McCulloch, and Mr. Robert Ralston, be a committee to agree with Mr. Aitken, in regard to the commission that he shall receive on the business to be entrusted to him, to give all other necessary directions relative to the business; and that they make report to the next General Assembly.

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly sundry papers relative to the situation of the church within the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon; and after some progress made in reading them, the Assembly adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.

*Monday, May 22nd, half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The General Assembly resumed the reading of the papers which were left unfinished in the forenoon and concluded them. Whereupon it was

Moved, That as the business referred to in the above papers, is now pending before the Synod of the Carolinas, and there is an adjourned meeting of said Synod with a view to issue it, the Assembly ought not to interfere in it till it shall be decided on by the Synod, and a regular appeal be made from said decision, or the whole matter be referred by that judicature to the Assembly.

After some debate on the foregoing motion, it was

*Resolved,* That it be committed to Dr. Smith, Mr. Arthur, and Mr. Davis, to report thereon to-morrow morning.

Mr. Doak, one of the ministers mentioned in the above papers, requested to be heard on this business, and it was agreed that he be heard to-morrow morning.

The credentials of Mr. William Allan, an ordained minister of the Presbytery of Elgin, in North Britain, some time past under the care of the Presbytery of Baltimore, were laid before the Assembly and approved, and it was ordered that the Presbytery of Baltimore, in whose bounds he resides, receive him accordingly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*Tuesday morning, May 23d.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer.

Present as before, except Mr. Gordon, who had leave of absence during the remaining sessions.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures report to the Assembly the following cases:

1. A reference from the Synod of Virginia respecting a certain Charles Mitchel, who had married his former wife's half-brother's daughter, requesting the opinion of the Assembly whether such a person may be admitted to church privileges.

2. A case from the Presbytery of Ohio to the General Assembly, in the following terms:

" A certain married woman charges an unmarried man with immodest conversation and conduct in attempts on her chastity, of which her husband and another indifferent person were at a certain time witnesses."

As our Constitution declares that a person accused shall not be convicted by a single witness, can the said woman and her husband be admitted witnesses in the above case?

3. A question conceived in the following words, and signed by William C. Davis:

" Whether testimony taken before a Session, and sent up to Presbytery under the signature of the Moderator and Clerk, will not be sufficient in references as well as in appeals, to render the case thus referred both orderly and cognizable by Presbytery."

4. The following proposal was brought in, signed John Blair Smith:

"Whereas the office of ruling elder in the Church is recognized in our Constitution as an office designated in the Scriptures, and is of very considerable importance in the government of the Church—a member of the Assembly proposes that a special act be framed with regard to their qualifications, ordination, and duty."

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, made report, and the records were approved to page 120.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas, made report, and the records were approved to the end of the ninth session.

The committee on the motion "To refer to the Synod of the Carolinas, the business contained in certain papers relative to the condition of the Church in the state of Tennessee," reported an amendment thereto; when, after considerable debate had thereon, it was decided in the negative. The original motion was then amended and adopted, and is as follows, viz:

As it appears that the business is now pending before the Synod of the Carolinas, and there is an adjourned meeting of said Synod with a view to issue it, the Assembly ought not judicially to interfere in it till it shall be decided upon by the Synod, and a regular appeal be made from said decision, or the whole matter be referred by that judicatory to the Assembly, and they hereby recommend to the Synod of the Carolinas to continue their laudable and prudent endeavours to bring the present dispute to a speedy issue.

On motion, it was agreed, That a committee be appointed to draft an address to the ministers and other members within the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon, upon the subject of the disturbances there, and that Dr. Smith, Mr. Arthur, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Southard, be a committee to report to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*Tuesday afternoon, May* 23*d*.

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before, except Drs. Rodgers, Alison, Davidson, Smith, and Green, with Messrs. Armstrong, Bayard, and Snowden, with the Moderator, who were absent with leave, to attend the Corporation of the Widows' Fund. Mr. Chapman was appointed Moderator *pro tempore*.

A reference from the Synod of Virginia was received through the Committee of Overtures, respecting a certain Charles Mitchel, who had married his former wife's half-brother's daughter, requesting the opinion of the Assembly whether such persons may be admitted to church privileges. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That though the Assembly would wish to discountenance imprudent marriages, or such as tend in any way to give uneasiness to serious persons, yet it is their opinion, that the marriage referred to is not of such a nature as to render it necessary to exclude the parties from the privileges of the Church.

Ordered, That the committee appointed to make extracts from the minutes of the Assembly for publication, do also make such extracts from the reports of the missionaries as may be judged of public utility, and that they cause them to be printed with said extracts from the minutes.

The report of the committee to arrange the missionary business, was read, amended, and after the amendment, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

The office of a missionary from the General Assembly to preach the gospel, and administer its ordinances to the people on the frontiers, is of the utmost importance to the interests of religion, and the prosperity of the Church; the men, therefore, who are appointed to engage in that business, ought to be selected with the utmost care, and to discharge their duty with fidelity, zeal, and prudence;—that commissions should be carefully made out for them, specifying not only the route which they are to pursue, but the particular nature of the conduct which they are to practise.

With regard to Mr. Thatcher, who was employed last year as a missionary, it is the opinion of the committee that he ought to be appointed again on the same terms as formerly; that he pursue the same course as he did before; that he preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in season and out of season; organize churches where opportunity offers, and administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper in places only where there are church officers regularly appointed; and that he account with the General Assembly for any moneys which he may receive on his tour as a donation from the people.

The committee on the missionary business report that they have not been able to discover any persons suitable for the office of missionaries, except Mr. Thatcher, before recommended.

*Wednesday morning, May 24.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before, except Mr. Schenck and Mr. Corray, who had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Hunter had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

The consideration of the subject of missionaries was resumed, and after discussion, it was determined that more missionaries than the one already appointed ought, if possible, to be employed for the ensuing year; and the subject was thereupon referred to the committee who have already had it under consideration, and they were ordered to report in the afternoon, what number of suitable missionaries can be obtained, and designate them to the Assembly.

The following question, signed by William C. Davis—"Whether testimony taken before a Session, and sent up to the Presbytery under the signature of Moderator and Clerk, will not be sufficient in references as well as appeals, to render the case thus referred both orderly and cognizable by Presbytery," was answered in the affirmative.

A proposal through the Committee of Overtures, "That a special act be framed with regard to the qualifications, ordination, and duty of elders," was taken up, and Dr. Smith directed to report, this afternoon, a draught of an act for that purpose.

The Assembly went into the consideration of the case reported by the Presbytery of Ohio, which was in the following terms: "A certain married woman charges an unmarried man with immodest conversation and conduct in attempts upon her chastity, of which her husband and another, or indifferent person, were at a certain time witnesses." Whereas our Constitution declares that a person accused shall not be convicted by a single witness, can the said woman and her husband be admitted witnesses in the above case?

To the above question the Assembly answered, that in all such cases as that submitted by the Presbytery of Ohio, it is a principle that both the husband and wife are to be admitted to give testimony. But in every particular case as it occurs, the judicature before whom it is tried, ought, in order to guard against collusion, to pay a very scrupulous regard to all the circumstances attending it, and especially to the characters of those who are admitted as evidences, so that on one hand the necessity of the case may be consulted, and on the other, that no injury may result to an innocent person.

The committee appointed to draught an address to the ministers and other members of the churches in the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon, made report, which was read, and after amendment, adopted, and is as follows, viz:

[Probably by oversight this letter was not transcribed, but as we find it in the printed extracts, we insert it in its place.—Ed.]

" *The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to the ministers and other members of the Churches within the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon.*

Friends and Fellow Christians—It is with extreme sorrow and regret that we are constrained to address you on the present occasion. At our present sessions we have learned, from various information, that ferments, animosities, and divisions exist, in an alarming degree, amongst you, who have heretofore been united under one common denomination. In directing our attention to those circumstances, we perceive with pain, that novel opinions, or at least opinions presented in a novel dress and appearance, have been openly and extensively circulated amongst you, and have excited unusual alarm; whilst at the same time they have given rise to much contention. We are also apprehensive, that in opposing what is thought to be a departure from the plainness and simplicity of our received doctrines, some of our brethren have been precipitate in their conduct. They appear to have separated from their brethren, without having in a constitutional manner obtained the advice and decision of the different judicatories whose authority they had been used to acknowledge.

Whilst we express our deep concern at these unhappy circumstances, we do not conceive ourselves warranted to enter into a judicial investigation of them, nor to form any decision thereon at present; as they have not yet been brought regularly before us. We have, therefore, thought proper to leave the whole matter to the Synod of the Carolinas, in whose judgment, fidelity, zeal, and discretion, we have the greatest reliance; and whose members must have the best opportunities of being acquainted with all the facts and circumstances. But whilst we thus express our confidence that the competent judicatory will discharge their duty faithfully, we think it our duty to say something with regard to ourselves. We take the present occasion of declaring our uniform adherence to the doctrines contained in our Confession of Faith, in their present plain and intelligible form; and our fixed determination to maintain them against all innovations. We earnestly wish that nothing subversive of these doctrines may be suffered to exist, or to be circulated amongst the churches; we hope that even new explanations of our known principles, by unusual and offensive phrases, will be cautiously guarded against, lest the feelings of Christians should be wounded, the cause of religion injured, and the enemy take occasion to triumph and blaspheme. We are also extremely anxious that the peace of the church, as well as its purity of doctrine, may be preserved inviolate; that every thing calculated to inflame the passions, to subvert the order of the church, or to interrupt and disturb its union, will be cautiously avoided. We are willing to hope, that both ministers and private Christians will feel all the force of the Saviour's character and example, who was meek and unassuming, who, when he was reviled, reviled not again, and who invites us to learn of him the same temper. We conjure you, brethren, to consider the nature and genius of our holy and peaceful religion, and to act under its influence. Pray for the Spirit of grace to be poured forth upon the church in a plentiful effusion, as the best enlightener of the mind, and healer of divisions. Consider the eternal obligations under which you are held to promote the glory of our common Lord and Saviour, and to contribute, as Christians, your united efforts towards the increase, purity, peace, and prosperity of his church. This duty is clear and express; and the obligation seems to acquire peculiar force at this time of general calamity to religion, and of more fearful expectation. When infidelity is bold, and, in the expectation of its friends, almost triumphant; when the most pernicious errors are adopted, and published by professed Christians; and when indifference, formality, and abounding iniquity amongst many of better principles, afford sad symptoms of the decline of pure religion, it is high time for the ministers and other members of the church of Christ, to awake to a sense of their situation and duty. In this way the Spirit of the Lord may lift up a standard against the common enemy, when he comes in like a flood.

We cannot forbear to urge upon all who may have been dissatisfied with the conduct of their judicatories, or who may have been influenced by extraordinary misrepresentations, to return into a connection with their brethren, not doubting but that they will be treated with tenderness and regard.

Finally, we sincerely wish and request, that all parties may submit to the jurisdiction, advice, and decisions of the Synod of the Carolinas; that their hands may be strengthened in checking error, healing divisions, and maintaining the strict and prudent exercise of discipline. But whilst we thus exhort to a Christian submission to the authority of your brethren in the Lord, we at the same time assure you that the door is ever open for appeal to the supreme judicatory of our church, in every case where it may be apprehended by you to be necessary."

Ordered, That three copies of said letter be prepared, and signed by the Moderator and Stated Clerk; one to the Synod of the Carolinas; one to the Presbytery of Abingdon, and one to the brethren who style themselves Independents, in the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.

*Wednesday afternoon, May 24th, 3 o'clock.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment. Present as before, except Mr. Little, who had leave of absence during the remaining sessions.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

A report from the Presbytery of Abingdon was brought in and read; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That said report be entered on the records of the General Assembly.

The Presbytery of Abingdon was constituted in the year 1786; extends in length from the New River on the north-east to the frontiers on Tennessee River on the south-west, at present about two hundred miles; and from the Blue or Eastern Ridge of the Apalachian mountains to the Cumberland mountains, about one hundred and forty miles in breadth. The congregations within the bounds of this Presbytery are as follow, beginning at the north-east:

| *No.* | *Name of Congregation.* | *Water Course.* | *State.* | *Present No. of Families.* | *Ability, in Dollars.* | *Time of Formation.* | *Present State.* | *When Settled.* | *Revival.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | New Dublin, | New River, | Virginia. | 30 | 100 | 1782 | Vacant. | | |
| 2 | Austin Ville, | New River, | do. | 25 | 75 | 1790 | Vacant. | | |
| 3 | Graham's Meeting House, | Reed Creek, | do. | 50 | 150 | 1776 | Vacant. | | |
| 4 | Adam's Meeting House, | Reed Creek, | do. | 30 | 100 | 1782 | Vacant. | | |
| 5 | Davises, | Head of Holston, | do. | 30 | 100 | 1776 | Almost extinct. | | |
| 6 | Upper Holston, or Ebbing Spring, | Holston, | do. | 45 | 140 | 1779 | Vacant. | | |
| 7 | Glade Spring, | Holston, | do. | 50 | 140 | 1772 | Were under Mr. Craighead from | 1784 | |
| 8 | Rock Spring, | Holston, | do. | 50 | 140 | 1784 | Mr. Edward Crafford, | 1794 | |
| 9 | Sinking Spring, | Holston, | do. | 60 | 180 | 1772 | Mr. Charles Cummings was pastor till . . . . . | | |
| 10 | Green Spring, | Holston, | do. | 45 | 140 | 1784 | Now vacant. | | |
| 11 | Upper Concord, | Holston, | Tennessee. | 45 | 140 | 1780 | Mr. Samuel Doake was pastor. | | |
| 12 | New Providence, | Holston, | do. | 50 | 150 | 1780 | Now vacant. | | |
| 13 | Clinch Congregation, | Clinch, | Virginia. | 25 | 80 | 1785 | Vacant. | | |
| 14 | New Bethel, | Holston and Watoga, | Tennessee. | 40 | 120 | 1782 | Vacant. | | |
| 15 | Hefron, | Walaugah, | do. | 20 | 60 | 1790 | Vacant. | | |
| 16 | Jonesborough, | Little . . . . " Limestone, | do. | 30 | 100 | 1796 | Mr. John Cosson, | 1796 | |
| 17 | Providence, | By Limestone, | do. | 70 | 240 | 1784 | Minister, | 1782 | |
| 18 | Chestnut Ridge, | Kindricks Cr. | do. | 25 | 75 | 1787 | Vacant. | | |
| 19 | Salem, | Nolechuckey, | do. | 50 | 200 | 1780 | Rev. Samuel Doake, pastor, | 1782 | 1784 |
| 20 | Mount Bethel, | Nolechuckey, | do. | 90 | 300 | 1780 | Rev. Hezekiah Balch, pastor, | 1783 | 1784–92 |
| 21 | Waggoner's Settlement, | Lick Creek, | do. | 20 | 60 | 1791 | Vacant. | | |
| 22 | Charter's Valley C—, | Holston, | do. | 60 | 200 | 1780 | Vacant. | | |
| 23 | Sinking Spring, | Lick Creek, | do. | 30 | 90 | 1787 | Rev. James Balch, { formerly stated, but now hired, } Pastor, | 1787–92 | |
| 24 | New Providence, | Fork of Chuky and French Broad, | do. | 40 | 120 | 1787 | Extinct. | | |
| 25 | Gap Creek Congregation, | Lick Creek, | do. | 20 | 60 | 1792 | Vacant. | | |
| 26 | Pent Gap C.—Oil Creek Cong., | Nolechuckey, | do. | | | 1787 | Extinct. | | |
| 27 | Westminster, | Nolechuckey and French Broad, | do. | 50 | 150 | 1787 | Rev. Robert Henderson, pastor, | 1790 | 1792 |
| 28 | Hopewell, | F. Broad, | do. | 50 | 150 | 1785 | | 1790 | 1792 |
| 29 | Shunam, | Holston, | do. | 40 | 120 | 1790 | Vacant. | | |
| 30 | Lower Concord, | Holston, | do. | 40 | 120 | 1791 | Vacant. | | |
| 31 | Fork Congregation, | Holston and F. Broad, | do. | 40 | 120 | 1790 | Rev. Samuel Carick, | 1792 | |
| 32 | Knoxville, | Holston, | do. | 40 | 120 | 1793 | Pastor, | 1793 | |
| 33 | Rim's Creek Congregation, | Swanano, | N.Carolina | 35 | 100 | 1794 | Vacant. | | |
| 34 | Mouth of Swanano, | Swanano, | do. | 35 | 100 | 1794 | Vacant. | | |
| 35 | Head of F. Broad, | F. Broad, | do. | 35 | 100 | 1794 | Vacant. | | |
| 36 | Eusebia, | Little River, | do. | 40 | 130 | 1786 | Rev. Gideon Blackburn, | 1794 | 1795 |
| 37 | New Providence, | Little River, | do. | 60 | 170 | 1786 | Pastor, | 1794 | 1795 |
| 38 | Tennessee Congregation, | Tennessee | do. | 65 | 200 | 1796 | Vacant. | | |
| 39 | Grassy Valley, | Holston, | do. | 70 | 230 | 1793 | Vacant. | | |

*Resolved*, That the next General Assembly meet at Philadelphia.

Dr. Smith reported a draught of an act with regard to the qualifications, ordination, and duty of elders.

Whereupon it was

Moved, That the said report be adopted and transmitted to the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly; which, after it was considered, was decided in the negative, and the subject contained in said report was recommended to the attention of the next General Assembly.

The committee to which was recommitted the missionary business, reported that they have not been able to discover any persons suitable for missionaries except Mr. Thatcher before recommended.

Ordered, That the Commission of Mr. Thatcher be signed by the Moderator and attested by the Clerks of the present General Assembly.

Drs. Ewing and Alison with Mr. Armstrong, having been appointed last year to procure the document necessary to fill up a blank which appears in page 107 of the Minutes of the General Assembly of 1795, Mr. Armstrong, one of that committee, produced a document which he assured the General Assembly he, as one of the Clerks of the General Assembly in session at Carlisle, had written as a minute of the credentials of Messrs. Samuel Knox, William Arthur, John Porter, and Samuel Leacock, having been laid before the General Assembly through the proper channels, and of their having been approved.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk and Mr. Armstrong see that the said document be entered in the blank referred to before.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk be allowed the sum of twenty-five dollars as a compensation for his services for the present year, and the door-keeper, for his services and other incidental expenses, the sum of seventeen dollars.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay seventy-four dollars to the committee for revising and preparing the Scripture proofs of the Confession of Faith.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly meet in the Third Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia on the third Thursday of May, 1798, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Whereupon, the Moderator dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution; and concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1797.

### Synod of New York and New Jersey.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany, | 9 | 3 | | 19 |
| Long Island, | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| Hudson, | 7 | 1 | | 7 |
| New York, | 15 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| New Brunswick, | 15 | 4 | 1 | 11 |
| **Synod of Philadelphia.** | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 12 | 2 | | |
| New Castle, | 10 | 3 | | |
| Carlisle, | 16 | 4 | | |
| Baltimore. No report. | | | | |
| Lewes, | 3 | 2 | | 12 |
| Huntingdon. No report. | | | | |
| **Synod of the Carolinas.** | | | | |
| Orange. No report | | | | |
| South Carolina, | 19 | 1 | 4 | 31 |
| Concord, | 12 | | 3 | 15 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | |
| **Synod of Virginia.** | | | | |
| No report. | | | | |
| Total, | 125 | 27 | 14 | 40 |

Deaths.—In the Presbytery of South Carolina, the Rev. Thomas Reese died July 28th, 1796, and the Rev. Thomas McCaulle, September 14th, 1796.

## 1798.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 17*th*, 1798.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, according to appointment, in the Third Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. William M. Tennent, the last year's Moderator, from Matt. xxviii. 20th, last clause—"And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

After prayer the commissioners produced their commissions, which were read in the Assembly agreeably to the Constitution, and it appeared that the following gentlemen were duly appointed, viz:

1. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—*Ministers*—Dr. John B. Smith and Mr. Gershom Williams. *Elders*—Messrs. Moses Holmes and Jacob D. Vanderhyden.

2. PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—*Ministers*—Messrs. Nathan Ker and Jonathan Freeman. *Elders*—Mr. William Faulkner and Dr. J. Sweezy.

3. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—*Ministers*—None. *Elder*—Mr. Isaac Reeves.

4. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—*Ministers*—Dr. John Rodgers, Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Mr. Azel Roe, and Mr. A. Condict. *Elders*—Messrs. David Little and Jonathan Baldwin.

5. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—*Ministers*—Mr. James F. Armstrong, Joseph Clark, and Andrew Hunter. *Elders*—Messrs. Benjamin Smith, Nehemiah Dunham, and John Bayard.

6. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—*Ministers*—Dr. Samuel Blair, Dr. William M. Tennent, and Mr. Nathaniel Irwin. *Elders*—Messrs. John Mann, Benjamin Snodgrass, and Hugh McCulloch.

7. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—*Ministers*—Messrs. James Latta, John McCriery, and Francis A. Latta. *Elders*—Messrs. Andrew Gibson and James Porter.

8. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—*Ministers*—Dr. John King, Dr. Denny, and Mr. Samuel Wilson. *Elders*—None.

9. PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—*Ministers*—Dr. Patrick Alison, and Dr. J. Muir. *Elder*—Mr. J. Orme.

10. PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—*Minister*—Mr. John Johnson.

11. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—*Minister*—Mr. David Smith.

12. PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—*Ministers*—Messrs. John Bryce, and Boyd Mercer. *Elder*—Mr. Nathaniel Coleman.

13. PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—*Minister*—Mr. Asa Dunham.

14. PRESBYTERY OF ABINGDON—*Minister*—Mr. Samuel Doak.

15. PRESBYTERY OF UNION—*Minister*—Mr. Hezekiah Balch.

16. PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—*Minister*—Mr. James Hall.

17. PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—*Minister*—Mr. William Williamson.

18. PRESBYTERY OF HOPEWELL—*Minister*—Mr. Moses Waddel.

The Rev. Timothy Langdon appeared in the General Assembly, and produced testimonials of his appointment by the General Association of the state of Connecticut, to represent that body in this General Assembly, and took his seat accordingly.

The Rev. Dr. John B. Smith was chosen Moderator, and Mr. James Hall and Dr. James Muir, Clerks.

By order, The minutes of the last General Assembly were read.

Progress was made in reading the minutes as far as page 146.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 o'clock A. M., at the First Presbyterian church. Concluded with prayer.

*Friday, May 18th, 9 o'clock.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Colonel John Bayard produced his commission as an elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, which being read and approved, he took his seat.

Dr. Vanderhyden produced his commission as an elder from the Presbytery of Albany, which being read and approved, he took his seat.

The General Assembly proceeded to read the minutes of the last General Assembly, and finished the reading thereof.

The Rev. Dr. King, Messrs. Roe, Irwin, Freeman, J. Latta, Bryce, Waddel, Williamson, Langdon, ministers, and Dr. Sweezy, Col. Bayard, and Messrs. Coleman, Orme, Smith, Gibson, Baldwin, and Holmes, elders, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet at this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournment.

It was moved that a committee be appointed to prepare and report an address from the General Assembly to the President, Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States, on the present critical state of our nation, which was made the order for to-morrow morning.

It was moved that the restriction laid by the last General Assembly on missionaries, which confines them to administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, in places only where there are church officers regularly appointed, be repealed.

It was moved that a committee be appointed to prepare a Pastoral Letter to the people under our care, in the present melancholy state of our churches and nation.

Drs. King and Alison were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Clark were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

Dr. Tennent, Mr. Hunter, and Col. Bayard were appointed a committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts.

Dr. Rodgers and Dr. McWhorter were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

On motion, *Resolved,* That the General Assembly mark with E. X. such of their proceedings as they desire to have published, and that Dr. Tennent, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Clark be a committee to superintend the printing and the transmitting of them.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey brought in their report which was read and is as follows, viz:

"The Synod of New York and New Jersey report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, that they consisted, October 20th, 1797, of five Presbyteries, viz: Albany, Hudson, Long Island, New York, and New Brunswick.

That the Presbytery of Albany consisted of thirteen ministers, eight of whom had pastoral charges, and one was President of Union College, viz: Mr. Alexander Miller, without a charge; Mr. John Warford, Salem; Dr. John B. Smith, President of Union College; Mr. Benjamin Judd, Mr. John Lindsley, Kingsborough; Mr. Simon Hosack, Johnstown; Mr. William B. Ripley; Mr. James Coe, Lansingburg and Troy; Mr. Samuel Sturges; Mr. Gershom Williams, Cambridge; Mr. Bethuel Dodd, Whites Town; Mr. Robert Smith, Schenectady; Mr. Frederick Halsey, Plattsburgh.

That they had installed Mr. John Lindsley pastor of the congregation of Kingsborough, April 17th, 1797.

That they had dissolved the pastoral relation between Mr. Samuel Sturges and the congregation of Charleston, April 17th, 1797; and between Mr. William B. Ripley and the congregation of East Ballstown, September 12th, 1797.

That they had received under their care, Mr. David S. Bogart, a licentiate from the Reformed Dutch Synod, February 22d, 1797; and dismissed him to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Long Island, September 12th, 1797.

That they had under their care two licentiates, viz: Mr. William Scott, from the Presbytery of Monaghan in Ireland, received February 21st, 1797; and Mr. Eliphalet Nott, from the Association of New London in the state of Connecticut, received August 16th, 1797.

That they had eighteen vacant congregations under their care: Albany, Hebron, Stillwater, Galloway, Ballstown, East Ballstown, New Scotland, Cherry Valley, Charlton, Milton, and Cooperstown, and its vicinity, each able to support a minister; and Little Falls, Waterford, Providence, Breadalbane, and Kingsbury, not able.

2. That the Presbytery of Hudson consisted of seven ministers, all of whom had pastoral charges, viz: Mr. Solomon Mead, Salem; Mr. Nathan Ker, Goshen; Mr. Andrew King, Walkill; Mr. John Minor, Union; Mr. John Joline, Florida; Mr. Jonathan Freeman, Hopewell; Mr. Methuselah Baldwin, Pleasant Valley.

That they had dissolved the union between the congregations of Hopewell and Deer Park, and Mr. Jonathan Freeman's pastoral relation to Deer Park, April 19th, 1797.

That they had dismissed Mr. John Close, to join the Presbytery of Albany, or the Classis of the Reformed Dutch Church of Albany, April 19th, 1797.

That they had installed Mr. Joline pastor of the church at Florida, June 13th, 1797.

That they had eight vacant congregations under their care, viz: Bedford and Franklin, each able to support a minister; Newburgh and New Windsor, united, able to support a minister; and Bethlehem, Fishkill, Poundridge, and Deer Park, not able.

3. That the Presbytery of Long Island consisted of fifteen ministers, twelve of whom had pastoral charges, and three had not charges, viz: Dr. Samuel Buel, East Hampton; Mr. Benjamin Goldsmith, Aquabogue Mattituck; Mr. William Schenck, Huntingdon; Mr. David Rose, South Haven; Mr. George Faitoute, Jamaica; Mr. Nathan Woodhull, Newtown; Mr. Luther Gleson, Smithtown and Islip; Mr. Zachariah Green, Brook Haven; Mr. Aaron Woolworth, Bridgehampton; Mr. Herman Dagget, West Hampton; Mr. Daniel Hall, Sag-Harbour; Mr. Joshua Hart, without charge; Mr. Wait Cornwall, without charge; Mr. Jacob Cram, without charge; Mr. Joseph Hazard, South-Old.

That they had ordained Mr. Joseph Hazard to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of the congregation of South-Old, June 4th, 1797.

That they had received Mr. Daniel Hall, a licentiate of the Association of New London, ordained him to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of the congregation of Sag-Harbour, September 21st, 1797.

That they had installed Mr. Herman Dagget pastor of the congregation at West Hampton, September 25th, 1797.

That they had received the Rev. Zechariah Green from the Presbytery of Morris county, and installed him pastor of the congregation of Brook Haven, September 26th, 1797.

That they had received the Rev. Mr. Luther Gleson from the Northern

Associated Presbytery, and installed him pastor of the congregation of Smithtown and Islip, in union, September 27, 1797.

That they had three vacant congregations under their care: Southampton, able to support a minister, and Freshponds and Hempstead, united, able to support a minister.

4. That the Presbytery of New York consisted of nineteen ministers, eighteen of whom had pastoral charges, and one had not a charge; viz: Dr. John Rodgers, New York; Rev. Jonathan Elmer, without a charge; Rev. Benjamin Woodruff, Westfield; Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Newark; Rev. Azel Roe, Woodbridge; Rev. Jedediah Chapman, Orange Dale; Rev. Jacob Vanartsdalen, Springfield; Rev. Dr. John McKnight, New York; Rev. Lemuel Fordham, Roxbury and Succasamea; Rev. Peter Fish, Connecticut Farms; Rev. Asa Hillyer, South Hanover; Rev. Aaron Condict, Hanover; Rev. John J. Carle, Rockaway; Rev. Samuel Miller, New York; Rev. Henry Cook, Second Church, Woodbridge; Rev. James Richards, Morristown; Rev. Amzi Armstrong, Mendham; Rev. James G. Force, New Providence; Rev. Robert H. Chapman, Rahway.

That they had four vacant congregations under their care: Elizabethtown, and Bloomfield, each able to support a minister; and New Hempstead and Haverstraw, united, able to support a minister.

That they had ordained Mr. Amzi Armstrong to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of the congregation of Mendham, November 29th, 1796.

That they had ordained Mr. James G. Force to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of the congregation of New Providence, November 30th, 1796.

That they had installed Mr. Aaron Condict pastor of the congregation of Hanover, December 13th, 1796.

That they had ordained Mr. Robert Hall Chapman to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of the congregation of Rahway, January 5th, 1797.

That the Rev. David Austin had withdrawn himself from all Presbyterian connection and government, and that they had dissolved the pastoral relation between him and the congregation of Elizabethtown, May 4th, 1797.

That they had omitted in their records, agreeably to a direction of the Synod, the name of the Rev. William Woodhull, at his request, October 11th, 1797.

5. That the Presbytery of New Brunswick consisted of seventeen ministers, twelve of whom had pastoral charges, one was President of the College of New Jersey, and four had no charges, viz: Rev. John Hanna, Kingwood and Bethlehem; Rev. John Woodhull, Freehold; Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith, President of New Jersey College; Rev. James F. Armstrong, Trenton and Maidenhead; Rev. Andrew Hunter, without a charge; Rev. William Boyd, Bedminster; Rev. Peter Wilson, without a charge; Rev. Joseph Rice, Penington and Trenton St. Church; Rev. Joseph Clark, New Brunswick; Rev. Walter Monteith, without a charge; Rev. Asa Dunham, without a charge; Rev. Thomas Grant, Amwell and Flemington; Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve, Medway, Georgia; Rev. David Barclay, Boundbrook; Rev. Robert Findley, Baskingridge; Rev. Holloway W. Hunt, Newton and Hardiston; Rev. Samuel F. Snowden, Princeton.

That they had received the Rev. Andrew Hunter from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, September 18th, 1797.

That they had dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Asa Dunham and the congregations of Oxford and Mount Bethel, Sept. 18th, 1797.

That the Rev. Stephen Voorhees departed this life November 23d, 1796

The Rev. Gilbert T. Snowden, February 20th, 1797, and the Rev. Francis Peppard, March 30th, 1797.

That they had three licentiates under their care, Mr. Joseph Caldwell, licensed September 22d, 1796; and Mr. George Scott, and Mr. Samuel Sloan, licensed May 31st, 1797.

That they had seventeen vacant congregations under their care: Cranberry, able to support a minister; Kingston and Assynpinck, united; Allentown and Nottingham, united; Shrewsbury, Shark River, and Middletown-point, united; Hardwick and Shappennack, united; Greenwich and Mansfield, united; Oxford and Mount Bethel, united; able to support, each, in their united capacity, a minister. Independence, Knowlton, and Millstone, not able.

JOHN RODGERS, *Stated Clerk.*

No reports were brought in from the Synod of Virginia.

The Synod of the Carolinas brought in their report, which was read, and is as follows, viz:

*A report of the Synod of the Carolinas.*

There are ——— Presbyteries belonging to the Synod. There are in the *Presbytery of Orange*—Rev. Henry Patillo, Grassy Creek and Nut Bush; Rev. David Caldwell, Buffalo and Alamance; Rev. William Moore, Red House, Hero, Rattlesnake, and Lower House; Rev. William Hodge, Hawfields and Cross Roads; Rev. Angus McDermot, Barbecue; Rev. Samuel Stanford, Black River and Elizabeth; Rev. John Robinson, Grove and Goshen; Rev. James H. Bowman, Little River and Eno; Rev. William Thompson, New Hope and Hillsborough; Rev. Colin Lindsay, suspended. *Vacancies*—Haw River, Speedwell, and Stony Creek, able to support a minister; South Washington and Morris Creek, able; Crossroads, unable. *Candidate*—Andrew Caldwell. *Licentiates*—John Gillespie, John Anderson, Robert Tate, Samuel McAdoo, John Naseley, Curry Barnett, Samuel Holmes, and John Foster.

N. B.—A very considerable number of vacancies being handed forward at the last spring session of Orange Presbytery, Synod cannot name and state them as they will be able to do in their Presbyterial Report.

*The Presbytery of South Carolina.*—Rev. Joseph Alexander, Bullock's Creek; Rev. John Simpson, Big Genrostee and Little Genrostee; Rev. James Templeton, no charge; Rev. Francis Cummins, Rocky River; Rev. Robert McCulloch, Catholic and Purity; Rev. William C. Davis, dismissed to join Concord Presbytery; Rev. James Stevenson, Indiantown and Williamsburgh; Rev. John Brown, Waxhaws; Rev. Robert Wilson, Upper Long Cane; Rev. William Williamson, Fair Forest; Rev. Robert Walker, Bethesda; Rev. David Dunlap, Columbia; Rev. Samuel Young, Lebanon; Rev. John Foster, Salem; Rev. George G. McWhorter, Bethel and Beersheba; Rev. James Gilliland, Bradaway; Rev. John Kennedy, Duncan's Creek and Little River; Rev. Robert Hall, deceased, August 31st, 1797. *Probationers*—Messrs. John Cowsart, John B. Davis, and William G. Rosborough. *Candidates*—George Read, William A. Dunham, and Hugh Dickson. *Vacancies*—Bethlehem and Philadelphia; Hopewell and Carmel, able; Greenville and Rocky Creek, able; Cuppytown; Dorcester, able; James' Island, able; John's Island and Wadmolaw, able; Orangeburgh and Turkey Hill, able; Hopewell, P. D. and Aimwell, able; Beaver Creek and Hanging Rock, Wataree, Concord, Richardson, Ebenezer, Fishing Creek, Fishing Dam, Grassy Spring, Union; Nazareth and Fair View, able; Newtown, Milford, North Pacolet, Calvary, and Liberty Spring.

*The Presbytery of Abingdon.*—Rev. Charles Cumming, no charge; Rev. Hezekiah Balch, Mount Bethel; Rev. Samuel Doak, Salem; Rev. John Cossom, Providence; Rev. Edward Crawford, suspended; Rev. James Balch, dismissed; Rev. Samuel Cornick, Fork and Knoxville; Rev. Robert Henderson, Hopewell and Westminster; Rev. Gideon Blackburn, Eusebia and New Providence; Rev. Jacob Lake, late of Orange. *Vacancies*—Providence, Concord, Holsten, Grass Valley, Sinking Spring, New Providence or Nolachucky, Carter's Valley, Sinking Spring, Green Spring, Rock Spring, Glad Spring, Shunam, Concord, Graham's Meeting-house, and New Dublin.

*The Presbytery of Concord.*—Rev. Samuel E. McCorkle, D. D., Thyatira; Rev. James Hall, Bethany; Rev. James McRee, no charge; Rev. David Barr, Philadelphia; Rev. James Wallace, New Providence; Rev. Samuel C. Caldwell, Hopewell and Sugar Creek; Rev. Humphrey Hunter, Goshen and Union; Rev. Joseph D. Kirkpatrick, Third Creek and Unity; Rev. Lewis F. Wilson, Concord and Fourth Creek; Rev. Alexander Caldwell, no charge; Rev. John Carrigan, Bethpage and Ramah; Rev. John M. Wilson, Morganton and Quaker-Meadows; Rev. John Andrews, Little Britain. *Vacancies* not able—Chesnut Spring, Mineral Spring, Smyrna, Salem, Knob Creek, Mountain Creek, Muddy Creek, Cane Creek, Upper Creek, Bozza, Jersey Settlement, Maimre, Joppa. *Vacancies* able to support a minister—Centre, Steel Creek, Poplar, Quent, and Rocky River, Swananoa, Hems Creek, and Buncombe. *Candidates*—John Hemphill and James McIlheney. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Samuel Davis, George Newton, James Gillespie, James Adams, and Thomas Price.

*The Presbytery of Hopewell.*—Rev. John Springer, Smyrna, Providence, and Liberty; Rev. Robert Cunningham, Bethany and Hopewell; Rev. Moses Waddel, Carmel; Rev. William Montgomery, Siloam and Little Britain; Rev. John Newton, deceased, June 17th, 1797. *Vacancies*—Bethlehem and Newhope. able to support a minister; Hebron, Bethesda, Newhope, and Richland Creek, not able to support a minister.

Francis Cummins, *Mod. S.*
Robert Wilson, *C. S.*

*December 2d,* 1797, *Greenville, Tennessee.*

Agreeably to order, the delegates to the General Association of Connecticut in the year 1796, reported as follows, viz:

"The delegates appointed by the General Assembly, to attend the meeting of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, at Norwich, in June, 1795, report:

That they attended the meeting of the Association, agreeably to appointment; were received and treated with much kindness and attention.

The business before the Association was almost entirely of a local nature, referring to the concerns of the churches under their immediate care. The only business of a general nature respected the sending of missionaries upon the frontiers; concerning which, all your delegates have to report is, that the Association were still prosecuting the plan of sending out missionaries.

We have only to add that your delegates had prepared a report to be given in to the General Assembly at their meeting in May last, but from some accident it failed of being delivered.

John McKnight,
Azel Roe.

*Morristown, April 18th,* 1798."

The delegates appointed to attend the General Association of Connecticut in the year 1797, reported as follows, viz:

"The delegates appointed by the General Assembly to attend the General Association of Connecticut at Windham, in June last, report,

That they all attended during the whole of the sessions of the Association, and were received with great cordiality and respect by the members of that body.

The greater part of the business which came before them respected the internal arrangements of the churches under the care of the General Association in that State. Some of their transactions were of a more general nature.

An address to the particular Associations upon the subject of the establishment of a missionary society in the state of Connecticut, was agreed to, and ordered to be published; together with such extracts and summaries from existing publications as might be sufficient to give a general view of the measures adopted in Britain and America for the spread of the gospel in heathen countries; and a committee was appointed to correspond with such societies in Europe and America.

A committee was appointed to revise Dr. Watts' translation of the Psalms of David, to alter all passages confined in expression to particular places or countries; and to translate the Psalms which Dr. Watts left untranslated.

Six missionaries to the new settlements were appointed for the next year, to spend four months each.

The next General Association is to meet at the house of the Rev. Mr. Basset, of Helston, on the third Tuesday of June, 1798, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

James F. Armstrong,
Samuel Miller."

Appointments to supply the pulpits of the delegates to the General Association of last year, were fulfilled, except in one or two instances.

The committee appointed to attend the Trustees of the New Jersey College, reported as follows, viz:

"The committee appointed by the General Assembly to meet the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, and to determine the application of the moneys in their hands, subject to the control of the General Assembly, report, That they desired to know what moneys of this description were in their hands, and were informed that the sum of £12 14*s.* 4*d.*, being the interest arising from the two sums of £152 6*s.* 5*d.*, and that of £102, was in their possession; and the said committee further desired that it might be applied, during the ensuing year, to the support of Mr. David Comfort, a student of divinity under the care of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and the immediate direction of Dr. Smith, which was granted.

William Boyd,
Robert Finley,
Samuel F. Snowden.

*Princeton, September 27th,* 1797."

On motion, *Resolved*, That the rules with respect to the election of delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, adopted in the year 1706, be now adopted.

It appeared that Mr. Thatcher went out on the mission assigned him by the last General Assembly, and died in the month of August in the discharge of his important trust, to the great loss of our Church.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey have recommended as missionaries for the ensuing year, the Rev. Messrs. Peter Fish, John Close, and Asa Hillyer.

The Presbytery of New Castle recommended for missionaries, John Slemmons, and John B. Patterson, licentiates under their care; and, if it seem good unto the General Assembly, desire that they might have leave to ordain them for that purpose.

Adjourned until half-after 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Friday, Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read.

It was Ordered, That the committee appointed to superintend the printing of the extracts from the minutes, be directed to make such selections from the journal of Mr. Thatcher, the missionary of the year before last, as they may judge necessary, and report to the House.

On the question being taken, the Moderator claimed a right to a vote as a commissioner from the Presbytery of Albany, distinct from the casting vote. He left it to the House to decide on the claim. The House having taken a vote on the subject, decided by a great majority against the Moderator's claim.

Isaac J. Reeve, an elder from Long Island Presbytery, produced his commission, which was read and approved, and he took his seat accordingly.

The General Assembly proceeded to nominate delegates to attend the General Association of Connecticut.

The members of the Corporation of the Widows' Fund had leave of absence for the remainder of this session.

The committee appointed to bring in a draught of a plan of incorporation for certain purposes, reported, accordingly, a plan, which was read and deferred for further consideration.

The Synod of Philadelphia brought in their report, which was read, and is as follows, viz :

The Synod of Philadelphia report to the General Assembly that they consist of six Presbyteries, viz :

1. The Presbytery of Philadelphia, consisting of fourteen ministers, of whom thirteen only have pastoral charges, as follows : Rev. Dr. John Ewing, First Presbyterian church in Philadelphia ; Rev. Dr. Samuel Blair, without a charge ; Rev. James Boyd, Newton and Bensalem ; Rev. Dr. William M. Tennent, Abington, Norriton, and New Providence ; Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Neshaminy ; Rev. John Davenport, Deerfield ; Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, Second Presbyterian church, Philadelphia ; Rev. Ethan Osborn, Fairfield ; Rev. John Gemmil, Great Valley and Charleston ; Rev. Samuel Leacock, Pittsgrove ; Rev. Abijah Davis, Cape May ; Rev. William Clarkson, Bridgetown and Greenwich ; Rev. Nathaniel Harris, Penn's Neck and Alloway's Creek ; Rev. Robert Russel, Allen's Township. *Vacancies*—Third Presbyterian church in Philadelphia, able to support a minister ; Deep Run and Tinicum, able in conjunction to support a pastor ; Woodbury and Timber Creek, not able. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Uriah Dubois and Thomas Picton.

2. The Presbytery of New Castle, consisting of ten ministers who have pastoral charges, and three who have no charges, viz : Rev. Wm. McKennan, White Clay Creek ; Rev. James Latta, Chestnut Level ; Rev. Dr. Thomas Read, Second Presbyterian church, Wilmington ; Rev. Alexander Mitchell, without a charge ; Rev. Colin McFarquhar, Donegal ; Rev. John McCriery, Head of Christiana and White Clay ; Rev. Nathaniel W. Sample, Lancaster, Leacock, and Middle Octarara ; Rev. William Arthur, Pequea ; Rev. William Chealy, Pencader and Middleton ; Rev. John Collins, St. Georges ; Rev. Francis Latta, First Presbyterian church, Wilmington ; Rev. Samuel Barr, without a charge ; Rev. Francis Hindman, without a charge. *Vacancies*—New London, Fagg's Manor, East Nottingham, able each to support a minister ; Upper Octarara, and Doe Run, able in conjunction to support a minister ; Little Britain, Charleston, Middleton, and Georgetown, not able. *Licentiates*—Messrs. James Laird, John Patterson, John Slemmons, David McConnaughy, and William Stewart.

3. The Presbytery of Baltimore, consisting of nine ministers who have pastoral charges, and six who have no charges, viz : Rev. Dr. Patrick Alison, Pastor of the Presbyterian church, Baltimore ; Rev. Dr. James Muir, Alexandria ; Rev. George Luckey, Centre and Bethel ; Rev. Stephen B. Balch, Georgetown, Potomac ; Rev. Enoch Matson, Bermuda ; Rev. Samuel Mar-

tin, Slate Ridge; Rev. John Brackenridge, Washington; Rev. Adam Freeman, Capt. John, Seneca, and Difficult; Rev. Samuel Knox, Frederick. Revs. John Slemmons, James Wilson, Caleb Johnson, Andrew Law, Cunningham Semple, and William Allen, without charges. *Licentiate*—Mr. William Maffit. *Vacancies*—Chanceford, Deer Creek, Soldier's Delight, and Bladensburg.

4. The Presbytery of Carlisle, consisting of fourteen ministers, who have pastoral charges, and six who have no charges, viz: Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit, President of Dickinson College; Rev. James Long, East Connegocheague; Rev. Dr. John King, Upper West Connegocheague; Rev. John Craighead, Rocky Spring; Rev. Thomas McPherson, Lower East and West Connegocheague; Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, Carlisle; Rev. John Black, without a charge; Rev. Daniel Jones, without a charge; Rev. John Linn, Sherman's Valley; Rev. Samuel Waugh, East Pennsborough and Monaghan; Rev. Joseph Henderson, no charge; Rev. Samuel Wilson, Big Spring; Rev. James Snodgrass, Hanover; Rev. William Paxton, Lower Marsh Creek; Rev. Robert Cathcart, York and Hopewell; Rev. Nathaniel Snowden, Harrisburgh; Rev. David Denny, Path-Valley; Rev. John Boyd, Tuscarora and Falling Waters; Rev. John Arnold, without a charge; Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, without a charge. *Vacancies*—Middle Spring and Falling Spring, both able to support a minister. Upper Marsh Creek and Great Connewaga, Piny Creek and Tom's Creek, Paxton and Derry, able, if united, to support a minister. Bedford, Great Cove, Williamsport, Hancock, and Mouth of Juniata, not able to support a stated pastor.

5. The Presbytery of Lewes; and

6. The Presbytery of Huntingdon, from which Presbyteries Synod have received no report since their last report to the Assembly; to which they beg leave to refer. By order of Synod,

NATHANIEL IRWIN, *Stated Clerk*.

*May* 16*th*, 1798."

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*May* 19*th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read.

A letter was received from the Committee of Correspondence of the General Association of Connecticut, to the General Assembly, which was read, and is as follows, viz:

"*New Haven*, *December*, 1797.

*Reverend Sir*—The revival of the missionary spirit in Great Britain and the United States, and the successful exertions of the people of God in both countries for the more extensive diffusion of Christian knowledge, have arrested the attention and gladdened the hearts of the clergy and good people of Connecticut. The General Association have felt their influence, and at their meeting in June last adopted measures which we hope will, in time, prove successful, for the obtaining permanent funds, not only for the support of missionaries in the new settlements in the northern and western parts of these States, but also among the aborigines of this country. At the same time the General Association addressed the several Associations in the State on the subject of forming a Missionary Society, and appointed a committee to make and publish summaries, and extracts from the late European publications on Missions to the Heathen, for the information of the people in general, and with a view to awaken their zeal, and draw forth their charity. These have been published in a pamphlet, and are now circulating among the people. As the pamphlet may give you further information on the subject, we ask your acceptance of it, with this communication. The General Association also appointed us a committee to open a correspondence with the Missionary Society in Great Britain, with the Governor and Missionary at Sierra Leone, with the Missionary Societies in the United States, and with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian churches; that they might obtain the earliest and fullest information with respect to every exertion which shall be made, and all measures which shall be adopted in the various parts of the world, for the enlargement of the Redeemer's kingdom, and to the success which shall attend them.

We present you with our cordial congratulations on these auspicious appearances. In our own joys we imagine we have a real experience of yours. We persuade ourselves that with these prospects the state of the new settlements which are rapidly and extensively spreading themselves on our western territory, and the deplorable circumstances of the Indians within our borders, will engage the attention and employ the particular deliberations of the General Assembly.

We shall be happy to receive your communications respecting whatever new may be transacted relative to an affair so interesting to our common Christianity.

Looking forward with continual prayer and lively hope to that illustrious day when the glory of the Lord shall arise upon Zion, the Gentiles come to her light, and kings to the brightness of her rising; when the Lord shall be her everlasting light, and her God her glory, we are, Rev. Sir, your brethren and fellow servants in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.

TIMOTHY DWIGHT,
JAMES DANA, } *Com. of Correspondence.*
BENJAMIN TRUMBULL,

The Moderator of the General Assembly of
the Presbyterian Church in America."

A letter was received from the Synod of the Carolinas, and read, viz:

"*Rev. Fathers and Brethren*—The Synod of the Carolinas having found from past experience the very great difficulty and even almost impossibility of the Presbyteries under their care being fully represented in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and being persuaded that it arises not from a want of an earnest desire to comply with their duty in this respect; but that the very great distance at which the meetings of the General Assembly have hitherto been, the length and expensiveness of the journey to Philadelphia, and the inconvenience of being so long absent from their families and charges, have generally discouraged those who would otherwise have attended: This Synod do therefore earnestly request, that you in your wisdom, would take this matter under serious consideration, and that you would, as far as propriety will justify you, relieve us from this great inconvenience, by appointing your future meeting at some place as far southerly as may be thought expedient, and thereby put it in the power of your petitioners to comply with their duties; which, if in their power, they would delight to perform.

That the Great King and Head of the Church may superintend and direct you in all your counsels and deliberations to his glory and the good of the Church under your care, is, Rev. and Dear Fathers and Brethren, the sincere wish and earnest prayer of yours in our common Lord.

THE SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS."

The General Assembly proceeded to the election of Delegates to the General Association of Connecticut which meets on the third Tuesday of June next, at Helson, when Dr. Samuel Blair, Mr. Nathaniel Irwin, and Mr. Joseph Clark, were duly elected.

Ordered, that an attested copy of the election be made out.

Ordered also, That the delegates to the General Association of Connecticut be allowed two dollars per day during their attendance with the General Association, and at the rate of two dollars for every forty miles going and returning, which sums the Treasurer is hereby ordered to pay out of the funds of the General Assembly.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the following resolution, viz: "That a committee be appointed to prepare and report an address, from the General Assembly to the President, Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States, on the present critical state of the nation,"—was taken up; when it was moved to amend, so as to strike out all the words after *United States*, and to add in their place, "expressive of their highest approbation of their conduct with regard to our foreign relations, and assuring them of our ardent zeal to support them in every measure necessary for the defence and independence of our country"—which amendment was carried by a great majority. The previous question was then moved, and, upon the Moderator giving his opinion that if the previous question were carried, it would preclude all debate on the main question, an appeal was made from the Moderator's opinion, to the house, when the opinion was confirmed. The previous question was then put, and carried. The main question was also put in the words of the resolution as amended, which was decided in the negative by a great majority.

The General Assembly took up the consideration of the draught of a plan of incorporation offered them by the committee charged to prepare such a draught. It was moved that it be approved, and that the same committee be directed to present the same to the Legislature of this state at their next meeting, accompanied with a petition from the General Assembly.

After some discussion, adjourned to meet on Monday at 10 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*May* 21*st*, *Monday*, 10 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read.

A motion to appoint a committee to prepare a Pastoral Letter to the people under their care, in the present melancholy state of our churches and nation, was taken up, when the Moderator, Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Green, and Mr. Irwin, were appointed for this purpose, and ordered to report as soon as convenient.

Ordered, That Dr. McWhorter, Dr. Alison, and Mr. Hunter, be a committee to draught a letter in answer to a letter received from the Committee of Correspondence of the General Association of Connecticut, and report as soon as convenient.

The Rev. Joshua Hart produced his commission from the Presbytery of Long Island, which being read and approved, he took his seat accordingly.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of a plan of incorporation, having reported, at a former session, a bill for this purpose, the report was again read, corrected, and approved. Whereupon,

Ordered, That Dr. Ewing, Dr. Green, Mr. Irwin, Dr. David Jackson, and Ebenezer Hazard, Esq., be a committee for the purpose of presenting said draught to the Legislature of Pennsylvania at their next meeting, accompanied with a petition from this Assembly, praying that the same may be passed into a law; and that the same committee be authorized to make or consent to any additions or alterations in matters of form, which to them shall seem proper.

*Resolved*, also, That the said committee be directed to solicit the Legislature, that the annual income of the Incorporation be limited to 150,000 dollars, and that, with the advice of legal counsel, they specify what proportion of this sum shall be derived from real or personal property to the Incorporation.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to bring in a list of thirty-six persons, out of whom to choose the trustees of the Corporation. Dr. King, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Balch, Mr. Freeman, and Mr. Bayard, were appointed for the above purpose, and directed to report in the afternoon.

Adjourned to meet at half-after 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment. Present as before, except Mr. J. Latta absent by leave.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Dr. A. Green produced his commission from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, which was read, when it appeared that in case of Dr. Blair's absence, Dr. Green should take his place, and Dr. Blair being absent, Dr. Green took his place accordingly.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, inclosing an extract from the records of said Synod, which was read, and is as follows:

"*Brethren*, I am directed, as Secretary of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in the United States of America, to transmit to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, the inclosed extract from the minutes of their late session. I have the honour of being, most affectionately, Yours, JOHN BASSET.

*Albany, May 8th*, 1798."

Extract from the minutes of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, in the United States of America.

"The General Synod appointed a committee to report what is necessary to be done in respect to reviving the friendly correspondence with Presbyterian and Associate Reformed Churches, who reported as follows, viz:

That in their opinion, the most speedy and effectual measures ought to be pursued to revive the friendly correspondence which subsisted for several years between the Reformed Dutch Church and the Presbyterian and Associate Reformed Churches, and to make provision for its improvement and permanency.

To accomplish this purpose your committee recommend, that a committee be appointed by the General Synod, to meet with committees from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian, and from the Associate Reformed Synod, on the third Tuesday in June, 1798, in New York, in order to form some plan of mutual correspondence and intercourse, which plan shall be reported to the respective judicatories for final ratification.

Your committee recommend that the committee of the General Synod be instructed to propose or consent to no connection which would destroy the distinction and independence of this Church, or in the least interfere with its discipline and form of worship; and that the three churches give mutual engagements for their adherence to the doctrines contained in their respective confessions.

Your committee are also of opinion that, until the plan of correspondence be established, the ministers of this Church continue to invite into their pulpits the ministers of the other churches mentioned, of whose piety and orthodoxy they are well assured; and that they continue to preach in their pulpits when invited.

Your committee further recommend that, in case this report be approved, an authenticated copy, with their approbation, be transmitted to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the Associate Reformed Synod.

*Resolved*, That this Synod agree to the above report, and that a committee consisting of the Rev. Dr. Linn, Rev. Mr. Bunshooler, Rev. Mr. Studdiford, Rev. Mr. S. Treligh, Rev. Mr. Shoomaker, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Turk, and Mr. Brinkeroff, be appointed to meet with any committees which may be appointed by the Presbyterian and Associate Reformed Synods.

I testify the above to be a true extract from the minutes of the General Synod. JOHN BASSET, *Secretary*."

The committee appointed to bring in a list of thirty-six names, out of which to choose trustees of the incorporation, reported; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the list lie upon the table, and that each member set a mark to the names of his choice.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Green and Mr. Irwin prepare a draught of a petition to the Legislature on the subject of incorporation, and report as soon as convenient.

The committee, appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and the records were approved as far as page 107.

Mr. Irwin, appointed to select from the records of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, such rules and regulations as appeared to merit attention, and to lay them before this General Assembly for their consideration, reported.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Irwin, Mr. Balch, Mr. Hall, Mr. Armstrong, and Dr. Tennent, be a committee to determine what, in these selections, are proper to be printed, and to report to this Assembly as soon as possible.

The members of the Corporation of the Widows' Fund had leave of absence during the remainder of this session.

*Resolved*, That supplies be appointed to the pulpits of the delegates who are appointed to attend the General Association of Connecticut. That Mr. James Boyd supply Mr. Irwin's, and Mr. Rhue, Mr. Boyle's, on the fourth Lord's day of June, and Dr. Tennent on the third. That Dr. Samuel S. Smith supply Mr. Clarke's pulpit on the third Lord's day of June, and Mr Cook on the fourth.

The following resolution was introduced by the Committee of Overtures

That no minister or candidate shall be received by any of our Synods, or by the General Assembly, unless he has been previously approved of, and recommended by one of our Presbyteries.

A letter also came through the Committee of Overtures, from Bethuel Church, Esq., inquiring whether he may be admitted to occasional communion, whilst he scruples concerning infant baptism. When it was moved,

That the Session of the church of Cambridge be permitted to receive Mr. Church, upon satisfactory evidence of his good character, his scruples concerning infant baptism notwithstanding. The decision was postponed.

The following gentlemen were duly chosen Trustees of the Incorporation, viz: The Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Dr. McWhorter, Dr. Samuel S. Smith, Dr. A. Green, Dr. Alison, Dr. Tennent, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Clark, Mr. Hunter, Mr Jared Ingersoll, Mr. Robert Ralston, Mr. Jonathan B. Smith, Mr. Andrew

Bayard, Mr. E. Boudinot, Mr. John Nelson, Mr. Ebenezer Hazard, Mr. David Jackson, and Mr. Robert Smith, merchant.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, Tuesday*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The extract of the records of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church was again read; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Samuel S. Smith, Dr. Ashbel Green, Mr. Andrew Hunter, Mr. John Woodhull, ministers; Mr. John Nelson, Mr. Benjamin Smith, Mr. Joseph Broome, and Mr. Benjamin Coe, elders, be a committee to meet with a committee of the Reformed Dutch, and a committee of the Associate Reformed Synod, conformably to the request of the Reformed Dutch Synod, at New York, on the third Tuesday of June next, and to report the result to the next General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the same compensation be allowed to the committee attending at New York, as is allowed to the delegates attending at Connecticut.

On the subject of the blank found in the records of the General Assembly,

Ordered, That the address of the General Assembly of last May, to the ministers and other members of the Church in the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon, omitted in the minutes page 150, be inserted in page 152.

*Resolved*, That the Moderator, with Mr. Clark, Mr. Ker, and Mr. James Boyd, be a committee to inquire into the religious state of our western extensive frontiers, and whether any, and what alterations may, with probable advantage, be made in our present plan of managing the missions in those parts, and make their report on these subjects to the next General Assembly.

The Presbytery of Baltimore directed their commissioners to solicit the permission of the General Assembly to ordain Mr. William Maffit, a licentiate under their care, to the office of the gospel ministry, if upon examination he should appear qualified. The request was made at the particular instance of the church of Bladensburg, where Mr. Maffit officiates as a stated supply. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That said request be granted.

It was moved that the restriction laid by the last General Assembly on our missionaries, which confines them to administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper in such places only where there are church officers regularly appointed, be repealed, and it was repealed accordingly.

The committee appointed to draught a letter in answer to the letter received from the General Association of Connecticut, reported a letter which, having lain on the table for some time, and having been enlarged and amended,

*Resolved*, That the said letter be signed by the Moderator, and transmitted to the Delegates of the General Association.*

---

* The following is the draught of the reply:

*Philadelphia, May*, '98.

Rev. Gentlemen—We thankfully acknowledge your favour of last December, and express the lively joy excited by your communication respecting the *missionary* business, and the agreeable prospects of its success in various places. The pamphlet you mention has not arrived, or we would have recommended an impression of the work here, for the more extensive diffusion of its valuable information.

Some years ago, evangelical missions from our denomination remained wholly under the direction and control of this Assembly, for the support whereof annual contributions were directed to be raised by our different churches; but powerful reasons induced us

The letter from the Synod of the Carolinas was again read, and the consideration thereof postponed.

*Resolved*, That certain rules for the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates, as condensed and extended from the records of our Church, be now considered.

The rules were read and discussed, but the final decision was deferred.

Adjourned to meet at half-after 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-after 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before, except Mr. B. Smith, who had leave of absence during this session.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Ordered, That the committee appointed to publish extracts from the minutes of this Assembly do collect as accurate a list of the ordained ministers, licentiates, and churches under the jurisdiction of the Assembly, as can be obtained from every source of information to which they have access, and publish the same with the extracts.

Ordered, also, That the Treasurer of the Assembly furnish the aforesaid committee with an annual account of the receipts and expenditures of money since our last publication, relative to this subject, in as particular a manner as possible, and that the same be also published with the extracts.

The members of the corporation of the Widow's Fund had leave of absence during the remainder of this session.

The consideration of the rules for the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates, as condensed and extended, was resumed.

---

to leave with the Synod of Virginia and the Carolinas the management of this service to the south of Maryland. They commonly furnish us every year with accounts of their proceedings, and we find that they have used laudable exertions for having the ordinances of the gospel administered among our rapidly increasing settlements in this quarter, which would otherwise seldom hear its joyful sound. The remaining desolate parts are under our own immediate superintendence. These we supply, according to the proportion of our ability; and there is reason to hope, that efforts adapted for the purpose, have been frequently accompanied with a blessing, as may appear by extracts from the journals of some of our missionaries accompanying this answer.

No convenient opportunity has offered lately for attempting the spiritual instruction of the Indian tribes on our border; but it is our fixed resolution to undertake the same whenever the means shall be in our power, and the prospect of a prosperous issue afforded. Could these untutored savages be brought to depend for subsistence on labour and industry, rather than on their vagrant pursuits, the way would be better prepared for teaching them to desire what is of more value than the meat which perisheth.

With great pleasure we inform you that institutions are formed in the cities of New York and Albany, for the benevolent design of spreading the gospel among the heathen adjacent to the United States, and among our own citizens where they are destitute of evangelical ministrations, and who have made considerable progress in collecting funds. There is, however, a plan now considerably advanced in the city of Philadelphia, on the same account, each of which may probably have missionaries employed in a short time. Establishments of the same description are likewise contemplated in some other places.

We have directed an application to the Legislature of this State, requesting that they would, at their next meeting, pass an act of incorporation in our favour, whereby certain persons may be enabled to act as a body politic in our name, and for our use, in raising and managing a fund, which will probably increase our means, and give vigour to our operations in advancing what both you and we are so anxious to promote. Of the result you shall be apprized, and of whatever else may seem necessary in relation to our common faith, for the most effectual measures of propagating which, a free and friendly exchange of sentiment must prove highly important.

Our fervent prayers unite with yours that the name of our divine Redeemer may be glorified from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same: and we are with unfeigned affection, Your Brethren in the Lord.

Ordered, That they be read by paragraphs; which was done accordingly, and such alterations were made as were judged necessary, when on motion, it was

*Resolved*, That the whole, thus altered, be adopted.

It is as follows, viz:

The following regulations, intended to embrace and extend the existing rules, respecting the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates, were adopted by the General Assembly, and directed to be published for the information of all concerned.

When any minister or licentiate from Europe shall come into this country, and desire to become connected with the Presbyterian church in the United States, he may apply, in the first instance, to any committee appointed to direct the services of travelling ministers and candidates; which committee shall examine his credentials, and take such other means to ascertain his principles, character, and standing, as to them shall seem proper. If the result shall be such as to encourage further trial, they may give him appointments to supply till the next meeting of the Presbytery, to which such committee belong. It shall then become the duty of such minister or licentiate, to apply to that Presbytery, or to any other in whose bounds he may incline to labour. This Presbytery shall carefully inspect his credentials, and not sustain a mere certificate of good standing, unless corroborated by such private letters, or other collateral testimony, as shall fully satisfy them as to the sufficiency of his testimonials. In that event, they shall proceed to examine him on the learned languages, the arts and sciences, on theology, and church history; and to consider such written evidences of his learned education as he may produce; nor shall they receive him, unless he shall appear to have made such attainments in these several branches as are required of those who receive their education, or pass their trials among ourselves. If the Presbytery shall receive satisfaction on the above particulars, (but not otherwise,) they shall proceed to examine him as to his experimental acquaintance with religion, soundness in faith, and capacity for resolving cases of conscience.

If, upon the whole, he appears to be a person worthy of encouragement, and who promises usefulness in the church, they shall receive him as a minister or candidate on probation, in which state he may preach the gospel where regularly called, either as a stated or occasional supply; and, if an ordained minister, perform every part of the ministerial functions, except that he may not vote in any judicatory, receive, or accept a call for settlement.

When he shall have resided generally, and preached within the bounds, and under the direction of said Presbytery for at least one year, the Presbytery shall review his case; and having caused him to preach before them (if they judge it expedient) on a subject previously appointed by the Presbytery, and having examined him as to his knowledge and approbation of our standards of doctrine, discipline, and government, they shall take into consideration, as well the evidence derived from these and former trials before them, as that which may arise from his acceptance in the churches; his prudence, gravity, and godly conversation; and from the combined influence of the whole, determine either to receive him, reject him, or hold him under further probation. In case of receiving him at that or any subsequent period, the Presbytery shall report the same to their Synod at its next meeting, together with all the certificates, and other testimony on which they have received him; or, if it shall be more convenient, this report may be made to the General Assembly.

The Assembly or Synod (as the case may be) shall then inquire into the proceedings of the Presbytery in the affair; and if they find them to have been irregular or deficient, they shall (after a suitable censure of said Presbytery) recommit the cause to them, in order to a more regular and perfect process. But if the proceedings had in the Presbytery appear to have been conformable to this regulation, they shall carefully examine all the papers laid before them by the Presbytery, or which shall be exhibited by the party concerned; and considering their credibility and sufficiency, come to a final judgment, either to receive him into the Presbyterian body, agreeably to his standing, or to reject him.

No such minister or licentiate, after being rejected by one Presbytery, shall be received by another; or if received, through mistake or otherwise, shall no longer be countenanced or employed, after the imposition is discovered.

If, however, any such minister or licentiate shall think himself aggrieved by the sentence of any Presbytery, he shall have a right to carry the matter by complaint to the proper Synod, or to the next General Assembly, giving notice thereof to the Presbytery during the sessions at which the sentence was pronounced. Provided, that if any European minister shall be of such distinguished reputation, as to induce any congregation under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly, to call him (while yet in his own country) to become their pastor; or the corporation of any university, college, or academy, to invite him to become an academical teacher or governor, such minister, on accepting said call or invitation, and coming to this country, may be received by any Presbytery, Synod, or General Assembly, without passing the examination or period of probation herein before mentioned, if his testimonials shall appear sufficient. In all other cases, it shall be deemed irregular for any Synod or General Assembly, to receive a foreign minister or licentiate, until he shall have been examined and approved by some Presbytery in manner aforesaid.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Wednesday, May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The overture that no minister or licentiate shall be received by any of our Synods, or by the General Assembly, unless he has been previously approved of and recommended by one of our Presbyteries, was taken up, when it was moved and agreed to postpone this motion, that the following might be introduced, as an addition to the rules already adopted, viz: "In all cases it shall be deemed irregular for any Synod or General Assembly to receive a foreign minister or licentiate, till he shall have been examined and approved of by some Presbytery in manner aforesaid;" when it was proposed to strike out the words "foreign minister or licentiate," it was decided against this proposal. It was agreed that the motion be adopted. A vote was then taken upon the overture, which was rejected.

The Committee of Overtures brought in their report.

The letter from Bethuel Church, Esq., as overtured was read, and the motion formerly made, thus amended—"That the session of the church of Cambridge be permitted to receive Mr. Church upon satisfactory evidence of his good character, his scruples notwithstanding"—was taken up and agreed to.

The committee appointed to determine what parts of the selections formerly read, were supposed proper to be printed, reported, That the Assembly order that E. X. be added to such selections as they approved for publication.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, and the records were approved as far as page 169.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas, reported, and the records were approved; but as certain papers referred to were not in the records, they could not receive the Moderator's signature.

The committee appointed to superintend the printing of the Confession of Faith, laid a statement of their accounts with Mr. Aitkin, the person whom they employed, before the General Assembly; but as the statement was imperfect, the whole was recommitted to the same committee to report as soon as convenient.

The Committee on Missions reported, but the report, for certain reasons, was recommitted.

Adjourned until half-after 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Committee on Missions reported. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the report be taken up by paragraphs.

The first paragraph was adopted; when, on motion, the subject of missions was postponed to take up the report of the Committee of Overtures.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the references from the Synod of the Carolinas, together with all the papers connected therewith and relative thereto, as delivered in by the Committee of Overtures, be read.

Considerable progress was made in reading these different papers.

Mr. Porter was absent the whole day without leave; Mr. Ker, through sickness.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Thursday, May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before, except Mr. Ker, Mr. Porter, Mr. Condict, and Mr. Little, who had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

The minutes of the last session were read.

On the subject of missions, the General Assembly proceeded in reading the report of this committee by paragraphs, which was afterwards adopted and is as follows, viz:

The Committee on Missions beg leave to report, that they ought to be conducted by men of ability, piety, zeal, prudence, and popular talents. That missionaries should preach the most important doctrines of grace during the short period which they can afford to stay in a particular place. That they organize churches where opportunity offers, and administer ordinances. And that they catechize and instruct from house to house, as far as practicable, when they remain for any length of time in a settlement. That they refrain from all political and party discussions of any kind, and with the self-denial of their Master, be wholly devoted to their ministry, and exemplary in their lives and conversation. That in keeping their journals they distinctly record the subjects on which they preach, and the apparent effect on their hearers. That for the present year the Rev. John Close, the Rev. Asa Hillyer, and the Rev. Asa Dunham, and Messrs. John Slemmons and John B. Patterson, licentiates, of New Castle Presbytery, be the missionaries. That Mr. Close be employed for three months, to set out about the middle of June; that he proceed through the counties of Otsego, Herkimer, Onondago, and Tioga, in the state of New York. That Mr. Hillyer set out about the first of June, and proceed through the great bend of Susquehanna, Tioga-point, the town of Milton, Geneva, Aurora, Homer, Manlius, Solon, Pompey, Casenovia, and the settlements in their vicinity, and be employed two months. That

Mr. Dunham set out about the middle of June and proceed through the counties of Northumberland and Luzerne, and the settlements adjacent to Lake Erie, in the state of Pennsylvania, avoiding as much as possible the usual course of the persons appointed to supply by the Presbytery of Huntingdon, and also the counties of Delaware, Tioga, and Onondago, in the state of New York; to be employed six months. That Messrs. John B. Slemmons and John B. Patterson set out about the beginning of August: the former to proceed through the course prescribed to Mr. Close and Mr. Hillyer; the latter to proceed on the route prescribed to Mr. Dunham, and continue each three months.

Your committee farther recommend, that regular commissions be furnished to the respective missionaries, signed by the Moderator and Stated Clerk, prescribing in the draught of the commission the route which they are to observe, and that they account with the Assembly for any contributions which they may receive on their mission.

*Resolved*, That the salary of the missionaries be at the rate of forty dollars per month, and that the Treasurer advance two months' salary to Mr. Dunham, and one month's salary to each of the others; and that the missionaries account with the General Assembly for any moneys which they may receive from the people among whom they may labour.

The following persons were appointed to supply Mr. Hillyer's pulpit: Mr. Richards on the second Lord's day of June. Mr. Armstrong on the third. Mr. Force on the first Lord's day of July. Mr. Jed. Chapman on the second, and Mr. Condict on the fourth, and Mr. Carle on the first Lord's day of August.

The General Assembly proceeded to read the papers connected with, and relative unto, the references from the Synod of the Carolinas, and finished the reading thereof.

The first article of reference was Mr. Balch's creed.

Moved that this should be first considered.

Mr. Balch was heard at full length in his own defence on this article.

Adjourned until half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That the next meeting of the General Assembly be at Winchester in Virginia.

A letter from the members of the Association in Philadelphia for the Suppression of Vice and Immorality, inclosing extracts of the laws of Pennsylvania on that subject, and a plan of that Association, were read. On motion,

*Resolved*, That Dr. Rodgers, Dr. McWhorter, Dr. Green, Mr. Bryce, and Mr. Armstrong, be a committee to take this subject under consideration, and to report as soon as convenient.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Mr. Irwin be allowed twenty dollars, as a compensation for his trouble in making selections as by order of the last General Assembly.

On the subject of references from the Synod of the Carolinas, the second article of reference was, the false doctrines with which Mr. Balch was charged. Mr. Balch was heard on this article at large.

The General Assembly proceeded to decide on the two articles of references above mentioned. It was agreed to take up separately the articles of the creed which Mr. Balch has published. After some discussion on the first aritcle, the further consideration was postponed.

The committee appointed to prepare a pastoral letter to the people and churches under the care of the General Assembly, reported a letter which, being read, was recommitted, to be reported to-morrow morning.

Mr. Benj. Smith and the Rev. Mr. Dunham, and Mr. Dunham, elder, obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, Friday, at* 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, according to adjournment. Present as before, except Mr. Benj. Smith, Mr. Asa Dunham, and Mr. Nehemiah Dunham.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Dr. Alison had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the committee appointed to superintend the printing of the proceedings of the General Assembly, call upon the Treasurer for moneys for the purpose of defraying the expenses of printing and transmitting them to the places of their destination.

The committee appointed to draught a petition to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, reported a draught of a petition which was read and approved.

Ordered, That Dr. Ewing, Dr. Green, Messrs. Nathaniel Irwin, Ebenezer Hazard, and Dr. David Jackson, be a committee to present said petition to the Legislature of Pennsylvania at their next meeting, signed by the Moderator and the Stated Clerk, and report the issue of this application, at the next General Assembly.

The committee appointed to prepare a pastoral letter from the General Assembly to the people in their communion, reported a letter, which was read, and after having been considered and amended, it was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

A pastoral letter from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the United States of America, to the people in their communion.

*Dear Friends and Brethren*—The aspect of divine providence, and the extraordinary situation of the world, at the present moment, indicate, that a solemn admonition by the ministers of religion and other church-officers in General Assembly convened, has become our indispensable duty. When formidable innovations and convulsions in Europe threatened destruction to morals and religion; when scenes of devastation and bloodshed, unexampled in the history of modern nations, have convulsed the world, and when our own country is threatened with similar calamities, insensibility in us would be stupidity; silence would be criminal. The watchmen on Zion's walls are bound, by their commission, to sound a general alarm at the approach of danger. We therefore desire to direct your awakened attention towards that bursting storm, which threatens to sweep before it the religious principles, institutions, and morals of our people. We are filled with a deep concern and awful dread, whilst we announce it as our real conviction, that the eternal God has a controversy with our nation, and is about to visit us in his sore displeasure. A solemn crisis has arrived, in which we are called to the most serious contemplation of the moral causes which have produced it, and the measures which it becomes us to pursue.

With regard to the causes of those national calamities, which we either feel or fear, a little reflection may convince us, that these may be traced to a general defection from God, and corruption of the public principles and morals. These usually keep an equal pace, and they uniformly precede the ruin of nations.

The evidences of our guilt are, unhappily, too numerous and glaring. We perceive, with pain and fearful apprehension, a general dereliction of religious principle and practice amongst our fellow citizens; a great departure from the faith and simple purity of manners for which our fathers were remarkable; a visible and prevailing impiety and contempt for the laws and institutions of religion, and an abounding infidelity which in many instances tends to Atheism itself, which contemptuously rejects God's eternal Son, our Saviour, ridicules the gospel and its most sacred mysteries, denies the providence of God, grieves and insults the Holy Spirit; in a word, which assumes a front of daring impiety, and possesses a mouth filled with blasphemy.

In the midst of the alarming situation of the public mind, which we have noticed above, we perceive a degree of supineness and inattention amongst too many of the ministers and professors of Christianity, which seems to threaten a dissolution of religious society. Formality and deadness, not to say hypocrisy; a contempt for vital godliness, and the spirit of fervent piety; a desertion of the ordinances, or a cold and unprofitable attendance upon them, visibly pervade every part of the Church, and certain men have crept in amongst us, who have denied, or attempt to explain away the pure doctrines of the gospel; to introduce pernicious errors which were either not named, or named with abhorrence, but which have, within a few years since, been embraced by deluded multitudes. The Lord's day is horribly profaned, and family religion and instruction lamentably neglected.

Our ingratitude to God enhances our dreadful guilt. No people have been more highly favoured in our original establishment, our increasing prosperity, and particularly in our contest during the revolutionary war, and its prosperous issue; but alas! we have basely forgotten our benefactor. We have abused his favours, and turned them into engines of opposition against himself. "He has nourished and brought us up as children, and we have rebelled against him."

The profligacy and corruption of the public morals have advanced with a progress proportioned to our declension in religion. Profaneness, pride, luxury, injustice, intemperance, lewdness, and every species of debauchery and loose indulgence greatly abound. And "shall not the Lord visit us for these things? shall not his soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" Are they not peculiarly aggravated? Are not our crimes enormous as they are numerous? Have we not known our Master's will, and refused, or at least neglected to do it? Have we not possessed uncommon means of information with regard to our duty, without a proportionate improvement? And have not our uncommon advantages been abused without shame or remorse? As surely as there is a righteous God, so surely will he visit us in his just displeasure, unless his grace prevent, by awakening us to a sense of our guilt and recalling us to the practice of our duty. Our circumstances loudly demand a public and solemn acknowledgment of God as our moral governor and righteous judge. It is time to cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; to look beyond second causes, and openly confess the hand and agency and government of God in the world. Let Christians unite more cordially and openly, in adhering to their Master's cause, and opposing infidelity in all its forms. God hath a controversy with us—Let us prostrate ourselves before him! Let the deepest humiliation and the sincerest repentance mark our sense of national sins; and let us not forget, at the same time, the personal sins of each individual, that have contributed to increase the mighty mass of corruption. Let the ministers of religion weep and intercede for themselves and a guilty people! Let all descriptions of persons lament their iniquities and reform! Let us practise all righteousness! Let us be earnest and fervent in prayer, that God, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, would pour out his gracious Spirit upon ministers and people; and that he would revive his work, not only amongst our churches, but amongst all denominations of Christians, until the blessed promises and predictions, with regard to the extent of the Redeemer's kingdom, be completely fulfilled. Let us conduct ourselves as quiet and peaceable citizens, submitting conscientiously to the laws of our own making and government of our own choice. Let us treat with candour and respect our civil rulers. Let us reflect that the Scripture precepts upon this subject are applicable to no people, if not to us, under a representative government; yet, as in the present imperfect state of human nature, differences in opinion must exist, let us carefully cultivate the sentiment of brotherly kindness and mutual forbearance and charity.

With a view to give the greater effect to the exhortations and admonitions in this letter expressed, we recommend that the last Thursday of August next be observed in all the congregations under our care, as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer; and that the ministers of our communion do then read this letter to the people of their charge, and enforce the truth it contains in such discourses, founded on the word of God, as shall appear best adapted to effect so desirable a purpose.

The General Assembly proceeded to the consideration of the creed published by Mr. Balch.

The agreement of yesterday, that the articles of Mr. Balch's creed be considered separately, was revised, two-thirds of the house consenting; and it was agreed that these articles be considered generally. The General Assembly entered upon the farther consideration of the subject, and after some time spent thereon, adjourned to meet at half-after 3 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*Half-after* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer. Present as before, except Dr. Alison, absent by leave.

By order, the minutes of the last session were read.

The consideration of references from the Synod of the Carolinas, concerning Mr. Balch's creed, and doctrines resulting therefrom, was resumed; and after some time spent thereon, adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at six o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Saturday, May* 26*th*, 6 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Present as before. Began with prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The consideration of the references on Mr. Balch's creed, &c., was resumed.

Ordered, That Dr. McWhorter, Dr. King, Dr. Green, Mr. Armstrong, together with the Moderator, be a committee to form a minute on the subject of the references before the General Assembly, and report next Monday morning.

Adjourned to meet next Monday at 9 o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday, May* 28*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and began with prayer.

Mr. Joseph Clark and Mr. Samuel F. Snowden were appointed a committee to direct the application of the moneys under the direction of the General Assembly, which are in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, and make report to the next General Assembly.

Ordered, That they be furnished with a copy of their appointment, attested by the Stated Clerk.

The committee appointed to superintend the printing of extracts from the minutes, reported, that Mr. Thatcher's narrative as a missionary could not be found, therefore no extracts could be obtained.

Dr. Rodgers was appointed to write to the Secretary of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, informing him that his letter to the Moderator of the General Assembly had been received and read, and to inclose him an authentic copy of the order had on the subject of the said letter.

Dr. Rodgers entered his dissent from the regulations made with regard to the introduction of foreign ministers.

The report of the committee appointed to form a minute on the references respecting Mr. Balch's case, was read; and after some deliberation on the subject, its farther consideration was postponed.

Adjourned till half-after 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-after* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer.

Mr. Balch informed the Assembly that he had withdrawn both his appeals.

The consideration of the references relative to Mr. Balch, was resumed; and after some amendments made on the draught brought in by the committee, it was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The committee appointed to take into consideration certain references and inquiries from the Synod of the Carolinas, relative to the publication and import of a creed, the preaching of false doctrine, and the use of indecent language, by the Rev. Hezekiah Balch, beg leave to report, that having carefully examined, and seriously considered the subjects submitted to them, they remark, upon the first article of the creed aforesaid,

That Mr. Balch is erroneous in making disinterested benevolence the only definition of holiness or true religion; because this may perplex the minds of those not accustomed to abstract speculations, is questionable in itself, and may convey the idea, that an absolute God, or a God out of Christ, is the object of the highest affection to the renewed mind.

Upon the second article, they remark, that Mr. Balch has confounded self-love with selfishness, in an abstract speculation, calculated to puzzle plain Christians, and lead to unprofitable disputes.

Upon the third article, they remark, that the transferring of personal sin or righteousness has never been held by Calvinistic divines, nor by any person in our church, as far as is known to us, and therefore that Mr. Balch's observations on that subject, appear to be either nugatory, or calculated to mislead. But with regard to his doctrine of original sin, it is to be observed that he is erroneous in representing personal corruption as not derived from Adam—making Adam's sin to be imputed to his posterity in consequence of a corrupt nature *already possessed* and derived from, we know not what; thus, in effect, setting aside the idea of Adam's being the federal head, or representative of his descendants, and the whole doctrine of the covenant of works.

It is also manifest, that Mr. Balch is greatly erroneous in asserting that the formal cause of a believer's justification is the imputation of the *fruits and effects* of Christ's righteousness, and not that *righteousness itself;* because righteousness, and that alone, is the formal demand of the law, and consequently the sinner's violation of the divine law can be pardoned only in virtue of the Redeemer's perfect righteousness being imputed to him, and reckoned as his. It is also not true that the *benefits* of Christ's righteousness are, with strict propriety, said to be *imputed* at all, as these benefits *flow to*, and are *possessed by*, the believer, as a *consequence* of his justification, and having an interest in the infinite merits of the Saviour.

On article fourth no remark is necessary

With regard to the fifth article it is to be remarked, that Mr. Balch appears to confound sentiment with the mere perception of truth, whereas it always partakes of the disposition of the heart, and consequently involves in it either sin or holiness. The article as stated by him, contradicts the principle laid down in the introduction to our Form of Government, and levels the important distinction between truth and falsehood, so as to be liable to the construction, that it is no matter what a man believes. And though Mr. Balch may not, and probably did not, intend to insinuate any thing disrespectful to the holy Scriptures, where he asserts that "there are wrong sentiments in the Bible," yet as his expression is liable to such a construction, we judge it highly censurable.

With regard to the sixth and seventh article, no remarks seem to be necessary, except that the offence given by the reflection cast on his brethren, the Presbyterians, in the seventh, has been sufficiently removed by his candid acknowledgmen before the Synod and General Assembly.

The eighth, ninth, and tenth articles require no remark, except that they appear to be unimportant.

With regard to the twelfth article, it is remarked, that his observation upon love as exercised by the human race, so far as it may be applicable to a state of infancy, is unintelligible; and that though a distinction may be made between regeneration and conversion, yet the terms in which the article is expressed are exceptionable, as they seem to discourage the use of the means of grace.

With regard to the thirteenth article, it is remarked, that in making repentance and faith to proceed wholly from love or charity, Mr. Balch has expressed an opinion unnecessary and improper.

In regard to the subject of false doctrine, in discoursing from Psalm li. 5, and Isaiah xlviii. 8, nothing seems necessary to be added to the remarks made on the subject of original sin, as contained in Mr. Balch's creed, except that he charges Calvinistic divines with holding sentiments relative to infants which they do not hold; and that he makes positive declarations in regard to the state of infants, when it has pleased a wise and holy God to be silent on this subject in the revelation of his will.

In regard to the subject of indecent language alleged to have been used in the pulpit by Mr. Balch, it is remarked, that if he was not misunderstood by the witnesses, he has, notwithstanding, declared such a deep and suitable abhorrence of all such language in public discourse, as renders it unnecessary to take any further notice of it.

On the whole, your committee recommend that Mr. Balch be required to acknowledge before the Assembly that he was wrong in the publication of his creed; that in the particulars specified above, he renounce the errors therein pointed out; that he engage to teach nothing hereafter of a similar nature; that the Moderator admonish him of the divisions, disorder, trouble, and inconvenience which he has occasioned to the Church and its judicatories by his imprudent and unwarrantable conduct, and warn him against doing any thing in time to come that may tend to produce such serious and lamentable evils. That if Mr. Balch submit to this, he be considered as in good standing with the Church; and that the reference and queries of the Synod of the Carolinas be considered as fully answered by the adoption of these measures."

From this decision, Mr. Langdon and Mr. Williams dissented.

This decision was read to Mr. Balch, and he having requested time for further consideration, the indulgence was granted.

The report of the committee appointed to take into consideration a letter and certain communications from a society in Philadelphia, to aid the civil authority in the suppression of vice and immorality, was read, approved, and is as follows, viz:

"That the designs of the society aforesaid appear to be in the highest degree laudable, and to deserve the approbation and imitation of the friends of religion and good morals in every part of our country; especially at the present period of abounding immorality and profaneness; and the committee do, accordingly, recommend that the Assembly express it as their desire, that the members of our communion countenance and aid the institution of similar societies in every place where such establishments may be attempted or appear expedient."

A reference from the Synod of the Carolinas, in the case of Mr. Edward Crawford's suspension, was read. There were also read two letters from Mr. Crawford, a minute of the Presbytery of Abingdon, at their sessions of August, 1796; a representation from the same Presbytery to the Synod of the Carolinas on the conduct of the Independent Brethren; a letter from the Synod of the Carolinas at their sessions of November, 1796, to the Independent Brethren; a reference from the Presbytery of Abingdon at their sessions in June, 1797, to the Synod of the Carolinas, on Mr. Balch's creed; and a minute from the records of the same presbytery, containing proposals of accommodation to the Independent Brethren. And after some deliberation on these subjects, they were postponed for further consideration.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Tuesday May 29th,* 1798, 6 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, according to adjournment. Began with prayer.

The consideration of the reference from the Synod of the Carolinas respecting Mr. Crawford, was resumed, and after deliberation the Assembly adjudged—That the proceedings of the Synod, so far as the matter has appeared to the Assembly, have been regular and constitutional, and that Mr. Crawford ought to have submitted to the act of suspension when fully informed of it, and ought to have returned with the other Independent Brethren at the meeting of the Commission of Synod, that he might have been restored to orderly standing; but inasmuch as he has not done this, and has moreover, in his letters to this Assembly, ill treated the Synod of the Carolinas, the Assembly deem it their duty to continue his suspension until he shall make proper acknowledgments to the Synod, and submit himself to the order and discipline of the Church, and be in regular manner restored.

And whereas, there appears in one of the letters of Mr. Crawford to this Assembly complaints against the Rev. James Hall, amounting to a charge of falsehood and forgery, the Assembly proceeded to examine certain documents from the Synod of the Carolinas relative to these matters, which incontestably prove these charges to be unfounded. And for the vindication of character of this brother, and the information of all concerned,

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk transmit to Mr. Crawford an attested copy of the above minute, and that the Rev. Mr. Doak read a copy thereof from the pulpit in the congregations lately under the pastoral care of Mr. Crawford.

On motion, *Resolved*—two thirds of the house consenting—To reconsider, in the decision on the case of Mr. Balch, these words, "he renounce the errors therein pointed out."

It was moved that these words be stricken out of said decision.

This motion was determined in the negative; and Mr. Irwin and Mr. Langdon asked and obtained leave, to have their dissent from the opinion of the Assembly in this last vote, entered on the minutes.

The following inquiry was referred to the decision of the Assembly, by the Synod of the Carolinas, viz:

"In what point of light are the elders nominated and ordained by Mr. Balch, to be viewed hereafter in Mount Bethel congregation?"

In answer to which it was determined by the Assembly, that the "elders" mentioned in the inquiry, are to be henceforth viewed as private church members only, unless they be duly elected and set apart as church officers hereafter.

Mr. Holmes and Mr. Vanderhyden had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned to meet at half-after 3 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*Half-after 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and began with prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Balch appeared before the General Assembly and made the following declaration, viz:

"I do fully acknowledge that I was wrong in publishing my creed. I do solemnly declare, however, as in the presence of my final Judge, that I never did entertain the ideas, nor intend to teach the doctrines which are pointed out as errors in the statement of the Assembly: but as I cannot so well judge as the Assembly what ideas my language actually conveys, and the Assembly declares that my language has conveyed these ideas and doctrines to their minds, I do fully and cheerfully renounce them as wrong and improper; and I do solemnly and sincerely engage, in a reliance on Divine grace, never hereafter to teach or preach what the Assembly have stated as erroneous: and I do finally and cheerfully submit myself to the admonition which the Assembly may see meet to give for my irregularities, which I acknowledge to deserve censure, and for which I am sincerely sorry."

Whereupon the Moderator gave to Mr. Balch, the solemn admonition agreed to; and then the Assembly declared themselves fully satisfied in the case of Mr. Balch, and that he is, and ought to be, considered as in good standing with the church. And the whole transaction was concluded with prayer.

Mr. Alexander Galbraith, an elder of the old session of Mount Bethel congregation, was allowed to state at length to the General Assembly, certain matters of complaint in that congregation, which he concluded with a written proposition in the following words, viz:

"In behalf of the session and congregation of Mount Bethel, I pray the General Assembly to direct Mr. Balch not to interfere in fomenting divisions as heretofore. Also, that Union Presbytery be particularly cautious in preferring a call to Mr. Balch, from Mount Bethel church, unless it should appear that the congregation are tolerably unanimous, as the peace of a church depends on the unanimity of its members.

ALEXANDER GALBRAITH.

*May* 29*th*, 1798."

Whereupon, *Resolved*, That the Assembly have taken every measure in regard to Mr. Balch which they deem to be necessary; and that, as it would be irregular to admonish the Presbytery of Union before they have committed error, so the confidence which this Assembly repose in that Presbytery, renders such a step superfluous. And the Assembly judge it more necessary to admonish Mr. Galbraith, and all those who have been and now are, connected with him in any controversy with Mr. Balch, not to cherish a spirit of litigation, malevolence, and discord, equally contrary to the general tenor of the gospel, and to the peace and harmony of that branch of the Church with which they are connected; in particular that they withdraw, agreeably to their engagements to the Synod of the Carolinas, the civil suits which they have commenced, and comply with the whole recommendation of the Synod on that subject. On the whole, the Assembly hope and trust, that all the parties in this concern will feel the solemn obligations which lie upon them, as professed disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus, not to indulge a rancorous spirit, nor to rend and divide his Church by the indulgence of a haughty, uncomplying, and unforgiving temper; but to unite mutually and cordially in endeavouring to close the wounds which they have unhappily opened—over which they have so much reason to mourn, and which we exhort and conjure them not to aggravate, but by every gentle and tender application to endeavour to heal.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk be allowed the sum of forty dollars, as a compensation for his services for the present year. Also, that the doorkeeper be allowed, for his bill, thirty-six dollars and eighty-four cents.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay the above sums.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly meet in the Presbyterian church in Winchester, on the third Thursday of May, 1799, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. Whereupon,

The Moderator dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution, and concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1798.

### Synod of New York and New Jersey.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dutchess, | 7 | 1 | | 6 |
| Long Island, | 12 | 3 | | 3 |
| New York, | 18 | 1 | | 4 |
| New Brunswick, | 12 | 5 | 3 | 17 |
| Albany, | 8 | 5 | 2 | 18 |
| | | Synod of Philadelphia. | | |
| Philadelphia, | 13 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| New Castle, | 10 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| Baltimore, | 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| Carlisle, | 14 | 5 | 4 | 13 |
| Lewes, | 3 | 1 | | 9 |
| Huntingdon, | 9 | 2 | 1 | |
| | | Synod of Virginia. | | |
| Redstone, | 8 | | 1 | 13 |
| Ohio, | 9 | | | 6 |
| Hanover, | 7 | 3 | | |
| Lexington, | 8 | 1 | | |
| Winchester, | 5 | | | |
| | | Synod of the Carolinas. | | |
| Orange, | 9 | | | |
| South Carolina, | 16 | | | 11 |
| Abingdon, | 3 | 1 | | |
| Concord, | 12 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Hopewell, | 4 | | 1 | 6 |
| Union, | 5 | 1 | | |
| Transylvania, | 5 | | | |
| Total, | 206 | 41 | 26 | 132 |

MONEY COLLECTED

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Presbytery of Philadelphia, | £109 | 12*s*. | 10*d*. |
| Presbytery of Albany, | 29 | 00 | 6 |
| Presbytery of Carlisle, | 47 | 12 | 10 |
| Presbytery of Long Island, | 24 | 00 | 9 |
| Presbytery of New Brunswick, | 101 | 2 | 10 |
| Presbytery of Hudson, | 15 | 16 | 10 |
| Presbytery of New York, | 125 | 7 | 11 |
| Presbytery of Baltimore, | 68 | 1 | 3 |
| Presbytery of Huntingdon, | 3 | 15 | 00 |
| | £524 | 17 | 10 |
| For sale of Confession of Faith, | £318 | | |

DEATHS.—In the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. Stephen Voorhees died November 23d, 1796; the Rev. Gilbert T. Snowden, February 20th, 1797; the Rev. Francis Peppard, March 30th, 1797. In the Presbytery of South Carolina, the Rev. Robert Hall died August 31st, 1797. In the Presbytery of Hopewell, the Rev. John Newton died June 17th, 1797.

## 1799.

WINCHESTER, *Virginia, May* 16*th*, 1799.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met at Winchester, in Virginia, agreeably to appointment; and (Doctor John B. Smith, the Moderator of the last Assembly, being absent) was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. John McKnight, from 2 Cor. ii. 16: "Who is sufficient for these things?"

After prayer, the commissioners produced their commissions, which being read, it appeared that the following persons were duly appointed members of this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—Rev. Dr. John McKnight, Rev. Asa Hillyer.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—Rev. Robert Smith.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith, Rev. Andrew Hunter, Rev. Joseph Clark, Rev. Robert Finley; and Col. John Bayard, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—Rev. Dr. William M. Tennent, Rev. James Boyd, Rev. William Clarkson; and Messrs. Jonathan Elmer, John McCullough, and Hugh Henry, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—Rev. Nathan Grier, Rev. Francis Hindman; and David Denny, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—Rev. Dr. James Muir, Rev. Samuel Knox; and Richard Orm, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, Rev. Dr. John King, Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden; and Moses Collins, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—Rev. Asa Dunham; and Thomas Morrow, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—Rev. John McPherrin, and Rev. William Swan.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—Rev. John McMillan, Rev. Thomas Marquis.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—Rev. James Robinson, Rev. Archibald Alexander.

PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—Rev. William Graham, Rev. Robert Wilson.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—Rev. Moses Hoge; and John Kearsley, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—Rev. John Anderson.

Presbytery of Concord—Rev. James Wallace.

Presbytery of Washington—Rev. Richard McNamar.

From the Presbyteries of Long Island, Hudson, Lewes, South Carolina, Abingdon, Hopewell, Union, and Transylvania, there were no commissioners present.

The Assembly proceeded to the appointment of a Moderator and Clerks. Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith was duly chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Andrew Hunter, and Rev. Robert Finley, Clerks.

Proceeded to a certain length in reading the minutes of the last General Assembly.

The further reading of them was postponed till to-morrow morning.

A Committee of Overtures was appointed, consisting of Doctors King and Tennent, and Messrs. Graham, McMillan, Alexander, Bayard, Henry, McCullough, Denny, and Kearsley, to meet in the Presbyterian church in this place to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Friday, May 17th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met, according to adjournment. Present as before.

After prayer, The minutes of the last session were read.

Ordered, To proceed in reading the minutes of the last General Assembly.

Messrs. Boyd, Grier, and Orm, were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

Messrs. Hillyer, Clarkson, and Collins, were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

The records of the Synods of New York and New Jersey, and of Philadelphia, were not produced.

Doctors McKnight and Muir, with Mr. Elmer, were appointed a committee, to prepare a draught of a pastoral letter, and report the same to the General Assembly as soon as convenient.

The reports of the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas were brought in. The reading of them was postponed till the afternoon.

No report was sent forward from the Synod of New York and New Jersey, nor from that of Philadelphia.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries composing said Synods produce their duplicates, and from them make reports for those Synods, as complete as possible.

The committee appointed to meet committees from the Reformed Dutch Church, and the Associate Reformed Churches, made their report, which was read, and is as follows, viz:

## MINUTES

*Of the proceedings of the Convention of Committees from the Reformed Dutch, Presbyterian, and Associate Reformed Churches, held in the city of New York, June 19th, 1798.*

The General Synod of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, having made a proposal for reviving, improving, and rendering permanent, the friendly correspondence with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the Associate Reformed Synod; and having appointed a committee to meet with committees from these bodies, in the city of New York, on the third Tuesday of June, 1798; and they having likewise appointed committees, a meeting was held accordingly in the consistory chamber of the Dutch church.

The Convention being opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, senior minister present, the credentials of the respective committees were read, and from these it appeared that the committees appointed were as follows:

*By the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church*—Rev. William Linn, D. D., Rev. Mr. Bunschooten, Rev. Mr. Studdiford, Rev. Mr. Schoonmaker, Rev. Mr. Froeligh. *Elders*—Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Turk, Mr. Simonson, Mr. Van Voorst, Mr. Brinkerhoff.

*By the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.*—Rev. John Rodgers, D. D.; Rev. Samuel S. Smith, D. D.; Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D.; Rev. Mr. Hunter; and Rev. John Woodhull. *Elders*—Messrs. John Neilson, Benjamin Smith, John Broome, and Benjamin Coe.

*By the Associate Reformed Synod.*—Rev. Robert Annan, Rev. John M. Mason, and Rev. Alexander Proudfoot. *Elder*—Mr. George Lindsay.

Of these committees the following members met, viz:

*Of that from the Reformed Dutch Church.*—Rev. Dr. Linn and Rev. Mr. Schoonmaker. *Elders*—Messrs. Gilbert, Turk, and Van Voorst.

*Of that from the Presbyterian Church.*—Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Rev. S. S. Smith, and Mr. Woodhull. *Elders*—Messrs John Neilson, John Broome, and Benjamin Coe.

*Of that frōm the Associate Reformed Synod.*—Rev. John M. Mason. *Elder*—Mr. George Lindsay.

The Rev. Dr. Rodgers was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Mr. Mason, Clerk.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Three o'clock, P. M.*

Met according to adjournment, and opened with prayer.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Woodhull,

Ordered, that the minutes of the former Convention be read—which was done accordingly.

The Rev. Dr. Green appeared and took his seat.

On motion of Dr. Smith,

*Resolved*, That as the invitation for reviving the correspondence between the Churches represented in this Convention, came from the General Synod of the Dutch Church, their committee be requested to lay before the Convention such proposals as they may have contemplated for accomplishing the objects thereof, or such introductory remarks as may prepare the way for originating a suitable plan.

Whereupon Dr. Linn informed the Convention, that the Synod of the Dutch Church, considering the points to be discussed by the joint committee as equally interesting to all the churches therein represented, had not instructed their committee to make any specific propositions in their name, nor had any been digested by them.

Mr. Benjamin Smith, one of the delegates from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, appeared and took his seat.

After conversation at some length on the general objects of the Convention, it was

*Resolved*, on motion of Mr. Woodhull, That a committee consisting of a minister and another member from each representation, be appointed to prepare a draught of a plan of correspondence and intercourse between the Churches.

Dr. Linn and Mr. Gilbert were appointed from the representation of the Dutch Synod.

Dr. Smith and Mr. Neilson from that of the General Assembly.

Mr. Mason and Mr. Lindsay from that of the Associate Reformed Synod.

Ordered, That the committee report to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Adjourned. Closed with prayer.

*June 20th*, 1798, 10 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

Met according to adjournment, and opened with prayer.

After the minutes of the last session were read, the committee appointed to draught a Plan of Correspondence and Intercourse between the Churches represented in this Convention, brought in their report, which, after discussion by paragraphs, and some amendments, was unanimously adopted and is as follows:

"The committee appointed to prepare the draught of a Plan for Correspondence and Intercourse between the Churches under the superintendence of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, beg leave to report,

That from considerations of propriety and expediency it is to be received as the basis of the Plan, that the several ecclesiastical bodies or judicatories concerned, are to remain and be preserved entirely separate and independent. That, consistently with this fundamental principle, the three following kinds or degrees of intercourse appear to be practicable, and ought to be recommended, viz:

1st. The communion of particular churches.

2d. The friendly interchange of ministerial services.

3d. A correspondence of the several judicatories of the conferring churches.

1st. The communion of particular churches.

Any member in communion with any church connected in this Conference may be received to occasional communion in any other church thus concerned, on producing, to the proper church officers to whom application may be made, sufficient testimonials of a good and regular standing in the church with which he is statedly connected; provided, but not otherwise, that the church officers to whom this application shall be made, shall judge that the circumstances of the church of which they have the oversight, render it expedient, and for mutual edification, to admit the applicant to occasional communion with them.

Persons under censure or process of censure in any particular church concerned in this agreement, shall not be received to occasional or stated communion in any other church so concerned, while such censure remains or such process is unfinished.

But on the other hand, when any member in one of said churches desires to connect himself with another, he shall not be refused a certificate of his good standing, when such standing is really good; nor shall it be esteemed disorderly or unkind for the church to which he may present said certificate to receive him.

2d, The friendly interchange of ministerial services.

It shall be permitted to the competent church officers in any congregation, settled or vacant, under the care of the conferring judicatories, to invite any minister who is in good standing with the aforesaid judicatories, to preach in the pulpits of such congregations if they shall judge it to be expedient. But here, as in the former case, it shall be entirely optional to give or to withhold such invitation, nor shall it be esteemed offensive or unkind if the invitation be forborne.

In cases where the people residing within the limits suitable to a congregation, shall be composed of members from two or from all of the conferring churches, it shall be recommended to the people thus circumstanced to call and cause to be settled among them a regular licentiate or minister in any of said churches, as the majority shall by vote determine, and that such licentiate or minister, when thus settled, shall attach himself to the judicatories of that church to which the majority so calling him did belong, unless said majority shall freely consent that the minister called do choose the judicatory with which he will be connected; in which case the minister may, without any offence, make his choice among the judicatories of any of the churches conferring; and where there are any congregations or bodies of people in such situation that they cannot obtain adequate supplies of ministerial service from that particular church to which they or a majority of them belong, it may and shall be lawful for them to make regular applications for supplies to any of the other judicatories concerned in this conference.

3d. A correspondence of the several judicatories of the conferring churches.

Any judicatory of the conferring churches may invite the regular members of any other judicatory concerned in this agreement to sit as corresponding members whenever it may be judged expedient so to do: but here as in the former cases, a neglect to invite shall not be considered as offensive, in as much as each judicatory must always be best able to judge whether such a measure be expedient.

It is moreover recommended that delegates be appointed by the General Assembly, by the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and by the Associate Reformed Synod, to sit in these judicatories respectively, with the privilege of deliberating on all subjects that may come before them, and also of voting on all questions which the members of the judicatory in which they sit shall not deem constitutional, but without power to vote on any question of this description. Provided, nevertheless, that the number of such delegates shall never exceed three, unless by a future agreement this number be increased.

It is further recommended that the churches conferring mutually watch over each other's purity in doctrine, discipline, and manners, and be ready to receive complaints against any of their ministers or members upon these subjects, which complaints may be preferred and prosecuted either by individuals in their own name *cum periculo*, or by a judicatory which shall communicate the necessary information to the judicatory to which the offender is subject; in which latter case it shall be taken up as a *fama clamosa* and prosecuted by said judicatory, and the whole proceedings thereon shall be transmitted to the informing body for their satisfaction.

It is understood that certificates or recommendations shall be esteemed authentic and sufficient where they are made agreeably to the rules of that church by which they are granted.

It is also understood that all congregations in making applications for supplies shall obtain leave for so doing from the judicatory to which they statedly and regularly belong. And that in making application, whether for supplies or for the settlement of a minister, they shall conform to the rules of that judicatory to which the application shall be made.

Ordered, That a copy of the proceedings of this Convention, authenticated by the Moderator and Clerk, be transmitted to each of the superior judicatories of the churches concerned. Concluded with prayer.

John Rodgers, *Moderator.*
John M. Mason, *Clerk.*

A final decision on this report was postponed till the afternoon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Friday*, 3 *o'clock*, *P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment. After prayer, present as before.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the report made by the committee appointed to meet with committees from the Synods of the Reformed Dutch, and the Associate Reformed Churches. After mature deliberation, the plan reported by the committee—"For correspondence and friendly intercourse between the above named churches"—was unanimously approved. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That this Assembly do appoint three delegates to attend the Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, and three other delegates to attend the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Churches, agreeably to what is proposed in the plan above reported; or to meet the committees of those churches, or either of them in a new convention. Provided that those churches respectively accept and ratify said plan, and also appoint delegates to attend the General Assembly of this Church; or provided they, or either of them, appoint commissioners to meet in a new convention.

Dr. John McKnight, Dr. John Woodhull and Mr. Jonas Coe, were appointed delegates to the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church. Dr. John King and Rev. Messrs. Andrew Hunter and Joseph Clarke were appointed to meet the General Synod of the Reformed Associate Churches.

They were ordered to fulfil their respective appointments by meeting the above named Synods at their first sessions, after they have regularly given notice to the next General Assembly or to the Moderator of this General Assembly, that they have adopted said plan. And in case said Synods or either of them do not adopt the above named plan, but propose a new convention, then the whole number were ordered to attend such convention.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk transmit to the Synods of the Dutch Reformed, and Associate Reformed Churches, a certified copy of this minute.

Certificates of their appointment were ordered to be prepared and signed by the Moderator, for each of the delegates. And it was also agreed that they receive the same rate of compensation for their services which is allowed to the delegates to the General Association of Connecticut.

The reports from the Synod of Virginia, and the Carolinas were read and are as follows, viz:

*Winchester*, *September* 29*th*, 1798.

The Synod of Virginia report that they consist of eight Presbyteries, which are as follow, viz:

The Presbytery of Hanover, consisting of nine ordained ministers, viz:

The Rev. Dr. James Waddell, without a charge; William Irvine, without a charge; Archibald McRoberts, without a charge; James Mitchell, having the pastoral charge of Bethel, Salem, and Pisgah; James Turner, colleague with Mr. Mitchell; John D. Blair, pastor of Hanover and Henrico; Drury Lacy of Cumberland; Archibald Alexander, Briery; and Matthew Lyle, of Buffalo and Briery in conjunction with Mr. Alexander. They have one candidate for the gospel ministry, viz: Mr. John Todd. They have received Mr. Samuel Ramsey, a probationer from the Presbytery of Lexington, under their care. They have several small vacancies, none of which of themselves are able to support a pastor; but some of them being contiguous and united are sufficiently able, viz: North Ford, Providence, and the Bird, united, would be able to support a minister; Mountain-plain, the Cove and Rockfish united, able; Sandy river, Tommahock and New Erection united, able; Goodhope, Smith's River, Good's Meeting House, Blue Stone, Lancaster, Cubcreek and the D. S. not able.

The Presbytery of Lexington, consisting of nine ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. William Graham, without a charge; Benjamin Erwin, without a charge; John Montgomery, without a charge; Archibald Scott, pastor of Bethel and Brown's Meeting-house; William Wilson, of Augusta church; John McCue, of Staunton and Tinkling Spring; Samuel Houston, of Falling-water and High Bridge; Benjamin Grigsby, of Lewisburgh and Concord; and Samuel Brown, of New Providence. *Vacancies*—Timber Ridge and Oxford united, able to support a minister; Lexington and New Monmouth united, able; Spring Creek, Little Levels, and Greenbrier united, able; Sinking Spring, Roanoke, Craig's Creek, Locust Bottom, Pine Grove, Jackson's River, Cow and Bull Pastures, and Knop's Creek, not able. They have four licentiates under their care, viz: Messrs. George Baxter, John Lyle, Robert Wilson, and William Chipley. They have three candidates for the gospel ministry on trial, viz: Messrs. Conrad Speece, Daniel Blain, and Robert Logan.

The Presbytery of Redstone, consisting of eight ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. James Dunlap, pastor of Laurel Hill; James Power, of Mount Pleasant; Jacob Jennings, of Dunlap's Creek; John McPherrin, of Unity and Salem; Samuel Porter, of Congruity; George Hill, of Fairfield and Donegal; William Swan, of Long Run and Sawicley; and David Smith, of Rehoboth and Round Hill. They have one licentiate, viz: Mr. James Adams; and one candidate for the gospel ministry, viz: Mr. Andrew Gwin. They have the following vacant congregations under their care, viz; Pittsburgh, Pitts Township, Pucketty, Poke Run, Tyrone, Quagmahoning, Somerset, Turkey Foot, Union, George's Creek, Sandy Creek, Crab Orchard, Crossing, Morgan Town, Clarksburg, Tiger's Valley, Glade Run, Thorn's Tent, Bear Creek, Scrubgrass, Ebenezer, Bethel, and Little Redstone.

The Presbytery of Ohio, consisting of ten ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. John McMillan, pastor of Chartiers; Joseph Patterson, of Racoon and Montours; James Hughes, of Lower Buffalo and Short Creek; John Brice, of Three Ridges and Wheeling; Thomas Marquis, of Cross Creek; Thomas Moore, of Ten Mile; Boyd Mercer, of Pigeon Creek and Pike Run; Samuel Ralston, of Mingo Creek and Horse Shoe Bottom; William Woods, of Bethel and Lebanon; and John Kennedy, without a charge. They have the following vacancies under their care, viz: Buffalo, able to support a minister; Washington, able; Mill Creek and Flatts united, able; the Cross Roads and Campbell's Meeting-house united, able; the Mouth of Racoon, Muddy Creek, the South Fork of Ten Mile, Indian Short Creek, Indian Wheeling, New Salem, Mount Pleasant, the Forks of Shenango, and McIntosh, not able. They have five candidates for the gospel ministry, viz: Messrs. John Watson, Thomas Hughs, Joseph Anderson, Smilie Hughs, and James Snodgrass.

The Presbytery of Winchester, consisting of five ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. Moses Hoge, pastor of Shepherd's Town; Nash Legrand, of Cedar Creek and Opakon; William Hill, of Charles Town and Hopewell; John Lyle, of Frankfort, Rumney, and Springfield; and William Williamson, of South River and Flint Run. They have dismissed Mr. James Robinson to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Hanover; and have three licentiates under their care, viz: Messrs. James Vance, Joseph Glass, and John Mines. They have the following vacancies under their care; Concrete, able to support a minister; Winchester, able; Middle Town and Back Creek united, able; and Lancaster, not able. The three remaining Presbyteries lying in the state of Kentucky, and not having sent forward regular reports of their congregations, licentiates, and candidates, the Synod can only report their ordained ministers.

The Presbytery of Transylvania, consisting of ten ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. David Rice, Thomas Craighead, Terah Tamplin, William Mahon, James McGready, Archibald Cameron, Samuel Findley, Mathew Houston, William McGee, John Howe.

The Western Lexington Presbytery, consisting of nine ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. James Crawford, Samuel Shannon, Isaac Tull, Robert Marshall, James Blythe, Joseph Howe, James Welsh, Samuel Rannels, and William Robinson.

The Washington Presbytery, consisting of seven ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. Peter Wilson, James Kemper, John P. Cambell, John Findley, William Speer, John Dunlavy, and Richard McNemair.

W. Hill, *Stated Clerk of the Synod of Virginia.*

Report of the Synod of the Carolinas, containing a list of the Presbyteries, licentiates, candidates, and congregations under their care.

1. *Presbytery of Orange.*—Rev. Henry Pattillo, Grassy Creek and Nutbush; Rev. David Caldwell, Buffalo and Allamance; Rev. William Moore, Middle, Lower and Upper Hico; Rev. William Hodge, Hawfields; Rev. Angus McDermot, Bluff, Barbecue and McCays; Rev. Samuel Stanford, Blackriver Chapel; Rev. Colin Lindsay, suspended; Rev. John Robinson, Goshen and the Grove; Rev. James Bowman, Little River and E. O.

2. *Presbytery of South Carolina.*—Rev. Joseph Alexander, Bullock's Creek; Rev. John Simpson, Goodhope and Roberts; Rev. James Templeton, Nazareth; Rev. Francis Cummins, Rocky River; Rev. Robert McCulloch, Catholic and Purity; Rev. John Brown, Waxhaws; Rev. Robert Wilson, Long Canes; Rev. William Williamson, Fair Forest; Rev. Robert B. Walker, Bethesda; Rev. David Dunlap, Columbia; Rev. Samuel Young, Lebanon; Rev. John Foster, Salem; Rev. James Stevenson, Indian Town and Williamsburg; Rev. John B. Kennedy, Duncan's Creek and Little River; Rev. James Gilliland, Bradaway; Rev. George G. McWhorter, Bethel and Beersheba. *Licentiates*—Mr. Andrew Brown, Mr. John Cowsert, Mr. John B. Davis, Mr. George Reid, Mr. William G. Roseborough. *Candidate*—Hugh Dickson. *Vacancies*—Hopewell and Carmel, able to support a minister; Fishing Creek and Richison, able; Fairview, Newton, Milford, N. Pawlet, Greenville, Rocky Creek, Cuffee Town, Liberty Spring, Grassy Spring, Ebenezer, Calvary, Unity, Hopewell on Pedee, Beaver Creek, Hanging Rock, Concord, and Fish Dam, not able.

3. *Presbytery of Abingdon*—Rev. Charles Cummins, without a charge; Rev. Edward Crawford, Rocky Spring and Glade Spring; Rev. Samuel Doak, Salem; Rev. Jacob Lake.

4. *Presbytery of Concord.*—Rev. Samuel McCorkle, D. D., Thyatira; Rev. James Hall, Bethany; Rev. James McRee, Centre; Rev. David Barr, Philadelphia; Rev. James Wallace, New Providence; Rev. Samuel C. Caldwell, Sugar Creek and Hopewell; Rev. Joseph Kilpatrick, Third Creek and Unity; Rev. Lewis F. Wilson, Concord and Fourth Creek; Rev. William C. Davis, Olney; Rev. Humphrey Hunter, Goshen and Unity; Rev. Alexander Caldwell, without a charge; Rev. John M. Wilson, Quaker Meadows and Morgantown; Rev. John Cunningham, Ramah and Bethpage; Rev. John Andrews, Little Britain; Rev. Samuel Davis, Mamre; Rev. George Newton, Swannanoa and Rems Creek. *Licentiate*—James McIlhenny. *Candidate*—Thomas Hall. *Vacancies*—Steel Creek, able to support a minister; Poplar-tent and Rocky River, able; Jersey Settlement, Joppa, Mineral Spring,

Chesnut Spring, Mountain Creek, Nab Creek, Upper Centre, Long Creek, not able.

5. *Presbytery of Hopewell.*—Rev. John Springer died the third of September last; Rev. Robert Cunningham, Bethany and Ebenezer; Rev. Moses Waddel, Carmel and Joppa; Rev. William Montgomery, New Hope. *Vacancies*—Hebron, Bethsaida, Siloam, Richland Creek, Sparta, and Sharon, not able.

6. *Presbytery of Union.*—Rev. Hezekiah Balch, President of Greenville College; Rev. John Cosson, without a charge; Rev. Samuel Carrick, Knoxville; Rev. Robert Henderson, Hopewell; Rev. Gideon Blackburn, Little River; Rev. Samuel Ramsey, Grassy Valley. *Vacancies*, unknown.

SAMUEL McCORKLE, *Syn. Clerk.*

Ordered, That from the incompleteness of the Synodical reports this year, they be not printed.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Saturday, May* 18*th*, 1799.

The General Assembly met according to adjournment. After prayer, present as before.

Ordered to read the minutes of the last session.

The delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, appointed by the last General Assembly, brought in a report, which was read, and is as follows, viz:

" *To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, to meet at Winchester in Virginia, on the third Thursday of May*, 1799.

The subscribers, appointed by the last General Assembly as delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, which met at Hebron on the 19th day of June last, beg leave to report:

That they all attended until the close of the sessions of the Association, and were treated with a degree of respect and attention which has made a very deep impression on their minds.

The General Association appeared to be much pleased with the connection subsisting between them and the General Assembly, and disposed to strengthen the bonds that unite them.

Your delegates were particularly pleased with the appearances of brotherly affection amongst the clergy of Connecticut, and the decent and cordial regard with which they treated each other, both in their ecclesiastical deliberations and personal intercourse.

That they have framed a Constitution and a Plan of a Missionary Society, to consist of the members of the General Association of Connecticut annually chosen.

That they have chosen twelve Trustees, one half of which are clergymen, and the other half laymen, to transact the missionary business under the superintendence of the Association. To raise a fund for carrying on the business, they have taken measures for making subscriptions and raising collections in all their churches.

That they have directed the Committee of Correspondence to write to the Independent Fund Board of London, and other religious societies of Great Britain, requesting them to give special certificates to those of the clergy who may come from them to the state of Connecticut.

That they have appointed six missionaries to go out this year to preach the gospel on the frontiers, and to continue in that service four months.

That they have appointed the Rev. Nathan Perkins, the Rev. John Elliott, and the Rev. Samuel Blatchford, delegates to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, to meet at Winchester on the third Thursday of May, 1799. And

That the next General Association is to meet at Hartford, on the third Tuesday of June next, at 11 o'clock, at the house of the Rev. Nathan Strong.

SAMUEL BLAIR,
JOSEPH CLARK,
NATHANIEL IRWIN."

The Assembly proceeded to the appointment of delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet on the third Tuesday of June next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; when it appeared that the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, of New York, the Rev. Dr. James Muir, and the Rev. Robert Finley, of Basking Ridge, were duly chosen. Certificates of their appointment were ordered to be made out, and signed by the Moderator and one of the Clerks.

Dr. McKnight and Messrs. Knox and Bayard, were appointed a committee to make out a list of supplies for their pulpits during their absence.

The committee appointed to direct the application of the moneys which are in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, subject to the direction of the General Assembly, reported as follows, viz:

The committee appointed to direct the application of the moneys which are in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, subject to the direction of the General Assembly, report,

That they have appropriated the moneys aforesaid to the support of Mr. Benjamin Hopkins, a student of divinity under Dr. Samuel S. Smith, and that, agreeably to their order, the Board have passed a resolution to that effect.

Signed by JOSEPH CLARK,
SAMUEL F. SNOWDEN.

The Rev. Joseph Clark and Robert Finley, were appointed a committee to attend at the meeting of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, to be held on the last Wednesday of September next, to direct the appropriation of moneys in their hands, subject to the control of the General Assembly.

The Moderator was directed to sign a copy of this minute as a certificate of their appointment.

The Presbytery of Huntingdon laid before the Assembly the credentials of Alexander McIlvaine, a licentiate from the Presbytery of Letterkenny, in the kingdom of Ireland, whom they had taken under their care, together with several letters respecting him; and also an account of their proceedings with him, agreeably to the rules prescribed by the General Assembly; all which were approved.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey, and that of Philadelphia, not having sent regular reports to the Assembly, reports were made out from the best documents in possession of the members from those Synods now present, from which it appeared that the Synod of New York and New Jersey consisted of five, and that of Philadelphia of six Presbyteries, as follow, viz:

The Synod of New York and New Jersey consists of,

1. *Presbytery of New York.*—Rev. John Rodgers, D. D., New York; Rev. Jonathan Elmer, without a charge; Rev. Benjamin Woodruff, Westfield; Rev. Alexander McWhorter, D. D., Newark; Rev. Azel Roe, Woodbridge; Rev. Jedediah Chapman, Orange Dale; Rev. Jacob Van Artsdalen, Springfield; Rev. John McKnight, D. D., New York; Rev. Lemuel Fordham, Roxbury and Succasamea; Rev. Asa Hillyer, South Hanover; Rev. Aaron Condict, Hanover; Rev. John J. Carle, Rockaway; Rev. Samuel Miller, New York; Rev. Henry Cook, Second Church, Woodbridge; Rev.

James Richards, Morristown; Rev. Amzi Armstrong, Mendham; Rev. James G. Force, New Providence; Rev. Robert H. Chapman, Rahway. One licentiate under their care, Mr. Hoit. One young man upon trials for licensure, Mr. Henry Kollock. *Vacancies*—Elizabeth Town, Connecticut Farms, Bloomfield, New Hampshire, Haverstraw.

2. *Presbytery of New Brunswick.*—Rev. John Hanna, Kingwood and Bethlehem; Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., Freehold; Rev. Samuel S. Smith, D. D., President of the College of New Jersey; Rev. James Armstrong, Trenton and Maidenhead; Rev. Andrew Hunter, no charge; Rev. William Boyd, Lammington; Rev. Peter Wilson, at Cincinnati; Rev. Joseph Rue, Pennington and Trenton, First Church; Rev. Joseph Clark, New Brunswick; Rev. Walter Monteith, no charge; Rev. Thomas Grant, Amwell and Flemington; Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve, Medway, in the State of Georgia; Rev. David Barclay, Bound Brook; Rev. Robert Finley, Baskingridge; Rev. Holloway W. Hunt, Newton and Hardiston; Rev. Samuel F. Snowden, Princeton; Rev. William B. Sloan, Greenwich and Mansfield; Rev. George Spafford, Woodhull, Cranberry. *Vacant Congregations*—Hardwick, Allentown, Middleton Point, Nottingham, Shappannock, Kingston, Independence, Assynpink, Millstone, Oxford, Mount Bethel, Shrewsbury, Shark River. *Licentiates*—George Scott, David Comfort, Ebenezer Grant, and Joseph Caldwell.

3. *Presbytery of Albany.*—Rev. Alexander Miller, without a charge; Rev. John Warford, Salem; Rev. John B. Smith, D. D., President of Union College; Rev. John Lindsley, Kingsborough; Rev. Simon Hosack, Johnstown; Rev. Jonas Coe, Lansingburgh and Troy; Rev. Samuel Sturges, without a charge; Rev. Gershom Williams, Cambridge; Rev. Bethuel Dodd, Whites Town; Rev. Robert Smith, Schenectady; Rev. Frederick Halsey, Plattsburgh; Rev. Eliphalet Nott, Albany; Rev. John Arnold, New Scotland. *Vacancies*—Hebron, Cooperstown, Galloway, Stephen Town, Balls Town, Milton, East Balls Town, Schdoock, Cherry Valley, Providence, Charleston, Kingsborough, Little Falls, Waterford, Breadalbane. *Licentiate*—William Scott.

4. *Presbytery of Long Island.*—Rev. Benjamin Goldsmith, Aquabogue, and Mattituck; Rev. William Schenck, Huntingdon; Rev. George Faitoute, Jamaica; Rev. Nathan Woodhull, Newtown; Rev. Luther Gleson, Smithtown and Islip; Rev. Zechariah Green, Brook Haven; Rev. Aaron Woolworth, Bridgehampton; Rev. Herman Dagget, West Hampton; Rev. Daniel Hall, Sag Harbour; Rev. Joseph Hazard, South Old; Revs. Joshua Hart, Wait Cornwall, Jacob Cramm, without charges; Rev. Samuel S. Bogart, South Hampton. The Rev. Samuel Buel, and the Rev. Mr. David Rose, have been removed by death since the last report. *Vacancies.*—East Hampton, Fresh Ponds, South Haven, Hempstead.

5. *Presbytery of Hudson.*—Rev. Solomon Mead, Salem; Rev. Nathan Ker, Goshen; Rev. Jehu Minor, Union; Rev. Andrew King, Wallkill; Rev. John Joline, Florida, and Warwick; Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Hopewell and Deer Park; Rev. Methuselah Baldwin, without a charge; Rev. Josiah Henderson, Bedford. *Vacancies.*—Pleasant Valley, Franklin, Newburgh, New Windsor, Bethlehem, Fishkill, Pound Ridge.

JOHN MCKNIGHT, *Stated Clerk.*

The Synod of Philadelphia consists of

1. *Presbytery of Philadelphia.* — Rev. John Ewing, D. D., First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Samuel Blair, D. D., without a charge; Rev. James Boyd, New Town, and Bensalem; Rev. William M. Tennent, D. D., Abington, Norriton, and Providence; Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Neshaminy; Rev. John Davenport, Deerfield; Rev. Ashbel Green,

D. D., Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Samuel Leacock, without a charge; Rev. Ethan Osborn, Fairfield; Rev. Abijah Davis, Cape May; Rev. William Clarkson, Greenwich and Bridgeton; Rev. Nathaniel Harris, Penns Neck and Alloways Creek; Rev. Robert Russel, Allens Township; Rev. Uriah Dubois, Deep Run and Tinicum. *Vacant.*—Third Presbyterian Church Philadelphia, Pitts Grove, Great Valley, Charlestown, Woodbury and Timber Creek. *Licentiates.*—Thomas Picton, William Latta, Jacob J. Janeway.

2. *Presbytery of New Castle.*—Rev. William McKennan, without a charge; Rev. James Latta, Chesnut Level; Rev. John McCreary, White Clay Creek, and Head of Christiana; Rev. Colin McFarquhar, Donegal; Rev. Nathaniel W. Sample, Lancaster and Middle Octorara; Rev. Alexander Mitchel, without a charge; Rev. Thomas Read, D. D., Second Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. Nathan Grier, Forks of Brandywine; Rev. William Arthur, Pequea; Rev. Francis Hindman, without a charge; Rev. William Chealy, Pencader and Middletown; Rev. Samuel Barr, without a charge; Rev. Francis A. Latta, First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. Patrick Davidson, Faggs Manor. *Vacant.*—Upper Octorara, Doe Run, New London, The Rock, Middletown in Pennsylvania, Lower Brandywine, New Castle, Christiana Bridge, Drawyers, Elkton, Charlestown, West Nottingham, Little Britain. *Licentiates.*—John Latta, John Colter, William Stewart, James Laird, Matthew Wallace.

3. *Presbytery of Carlisle.*—Rev. Charles Nesbit, President of Dickinson College; Rev. Robert Cooper, D. D., without a charge; Rev. James Lang, East Connecocheague; Rev. John King, D. D., Upper West Connecocheague; Rev. Robert Davidson, D. D., Carlisle; Rev. Thomas McPherrin, Lower West Connecocheague; Rev. John Black, without a charge; Rev. John Linn, Sherman's Valley; Rev. Samuel Waugh, Silver Spring and Monaghan; Rev. James Snodgrass, Hanover; Rev. William Paxton, Lower Marsh Creek; Rev. Robert Cathcart, Yorktown and Hopewell; Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, Harrisburgh; Rev. David Denny, Path Valley; Rev. John Boyd, Tuscarora and Falling Waters; Rev. John Craighead, without a charge; Rev. Daniel Jones, without a charge. *Vacant.*—Big Spring, Middle Spring, Rocky Spring, Falling Spring, Great Conewago, Upper Marsh Creek, Toms Creek, Piney Creek, Great Cove, Bedford, William's Port. *Licentiates.*—James McLane, Francis Laird, Joshua Williams, Francis Heron, David McConnaughy.

4. *Presbytery of Huntingdon.*—Rev. John Hoge, without a charge; Rev. Hugh McGill, without a charge; Rev. David Bard, Frankstown; Rev. Matthew Stephen, Shavers Creek; Rev. James Johnson, without a charge; Rev. Asa Dunham, without a charge; Rev. John Johnson, Huntingdon and Hartslog; Rev. Hugh Morrison, Buffaloe and Sunbury; Rev. John Bryson, Chillisquaque and Warrior-run; Rev. David Wiley, Spring Creek; Rev. Isaac Grier, Pine Creek, Lycoming, and Great Island; Rev. Samuel Bryson, Spruce Creek and Sinking Valley. *Vacant*—Brier Creek, Derry and Mahoning, Shamokin, Washington, Lick-run and Bellfonte, Brush Valley, Penn's Creek, Sinking Creek, East Kishacoquillas, West Kishacoquillas, Lewistown, Derry on Juniata, Wayne, Great Aughwick, Little Aughwick and Upper Tuscarora, Greenwood, Cedar Spring, Lost Creek, Middle and Lower Tuscarora. *Licentiate*—Alexander McIlvaine.

5. *Presbytery of Baltimore.*—Rev. Patrick Alison, D. D., Baltimore; Rev. James Muir, D. D., Alexandria; Rev. George Lucky, Centre and Bethel; Rev. Stephen B. Balch, Georgetown; Rev. Enoch Matson, Bermuda; Rev. Samuel Martin, Slate Ridge; Rev. John Brackenridge, Washington; Rev. Adam Freeman, St. John, Seneca, and Difficult; Rev. Samuel Knox, Fred-

erick; Rev. William Maffit, Bladensburgh; Rev. John Slemons, without a charge; Rev. William Allen, without a charge; Rev. Caleb Johnson, without a charge. *Vacant*—Chanceford, Deer Creek, Soldier's Delight.

6. *Presbytery of Lewes.*—Rev. Samuel McMasters, Snow Hill and Pitts Creek; Rev. John Burton, Lewes, Cold Spring, and Indian River; Rev. William McKee, without a charge; Rev. John Johnson, Murderkill and Three Runs. *Vacant*—Black Water, Buckingham, Rockawankin, Monokin, Broad Creek, Dover, Duck Creek, Queen Ann's, St. Johns.

An application from the Presbytery of Baltimore was made to the Assembly in the following words, viz:

"On considering the distance at which some of our members reside from each other, being nearly one hundred miles, the peculiar difficulty to many of attending the sessions of Presbytery where they ought to be sometimes held, and the different changes that have taken place among us, a new arrangement appeared highly necessary to remedy the inconveniences thence arising, and render an attendance on the judicatories more practicable and useful.

Our commissioners to the General Assembly were accordingly instructed to propose that the Revs. John Slemons, George Luckey, Samuel Martin, and Caleb Johnson be joined to the Presbytery of New Castle, and that the churches of those among these members who have pastoral relations, together with the vacancies of Deer Creek and Chanceford, be also placed under the care of that Presbytery.

Done in the Presbytery of Baltimore, in the city of Baltimore, April 16th, 1799. PATRICK ALISON, *Moderator.*"

Whereupon, *Resolved*, (the commissioners present from both Presbyteries consenting,) That the said members and congregations be detached from the Presbytery of Baltimore, and connected with that of New Castle, agreeably to their request.

Ordered, That copies of this minute be signed by the Moderator and Clerk, and be transmitted to the Presbyteries of New Castle and Baltimore.

Mr. Slemons, one of the missionaries appointed by the last Assembly, read his report, which was approved.

Adjourned to meet on Monday at 9 o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday, May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met, according to adjournment. Present as before, except Mr. Orm, who had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

After prayer, The minutes of the last session were read.

A reference from the Synod of Virginia was laid before the Assembly, in the following words, viz:

"Through the Committee of Overtures was laid before the Synod the following question: How far and in what sense are persons who have been regularly baptized in infancy, and have not partaken of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, subject to the discipline of the Church?

WILLIAM HILL, *Clerk of the Synod of Virginia.*

*September 29th*, 1798.

After some discussion, it was

*Resolved*, That the public Standards of this Church contain a sufficient answer to the question stated in the above reference.

The reports of Messrs. Close, Hillyer, Patterson, and Dunham, missionaries to the frontiers, were read and approved. Whereupon,

Ordered, That Messrs. Graham, Boyd, Hillyer, and Elmer, be a committee to prepare from these reports a general one respecting the religious state of the frontiers, and the success of our missionaries; and to settle their accounts.

The Treasurer, Mr. Isaac Snowden, Sen., being absent, those commissioners who have brought up any moneys for the use of the General Assembly, were ordered to pay them to Mr. John McCulloh.

Mr. Kearsley left the Assembly, and his seat was filled by Mr. Lewis Stevens, his alternate commissioner.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment. Present as before.

After prayer, the minutes of the last session were read.

An overture was inclosed to the Assembly, through the Committee of Overtures, in the words following, viz:

"That Mr. Samuel Donnel, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Ohio, be, for reasons stated in a letter accompanying this overture, ordained by that Presbytery, in order to his settlement in a remote part of Tennessee." Whereupon, the Assembly, considering the necessities of the churches in that part of our country, and their great distance from any Presbytery,

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Ohio, if they see their way clear, do ordain Mr. Samuel Donnel; and the Clerks were ordered to furnish the Presbytery of Ohio with an attested copy of this minute.

Two members of the committee appointed by the General Assembly of last year, to report a plan for the better prosecuting the business of missions on our frontiers, informed the Assembly, that, having had no opportunity to meet, they have no report. Whereupon, on motion,

Ordered, That Dr. McKnight, and Mr. Hillyer be added to that committee to report to the General Assembly before they rise.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Assembly will proceed to-morrow morning to a general and free conversation on the state of religion, its dangers, and its difficulties, and the most likely means to revive and strengthen its influence.

A resolution from the Presbytery of New York, relative to the regulations adopted at the last General Assembly with regard to the introduction of foreign ministers, and alleging that they were unnecessary, unconstitutional, uncharitable, and inconsistent, was produced in the Assembly, which being read, moved that said regulations be rescinded. After ample discussion and mature deliberation, it was determined that they be not rescinded.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Tuesday, May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment. Present as before.

After prayer the minutes of the last session were read.

A motion was made by Doctor McKnight, a commissioner from the Presbytery of New York, "that the resolution of the Presbytery of New York, decided upon at their last session, be entered upon the minutes." It was ordered to be entered accordingly.

"At a meeting of the Presbytery of New York in the city of New York, April 16th, 1799, and continued by adjournments, the Presbytery took into consideration the regulations adopted by the General Assembly at their last meeting, intended to embrace and extend the existing rules respecting the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates; whereupon the Presbytery were of opinion, that if the General Assembly designed these regulations as a standing rule, supposing that having passed through their body, they became obligatory upon the subordinate judicatories, and ought to be carried into immediate effect, they therein violated the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of our constitution, which says, 'Before any overtures or regulations proposed by the Assembly to be established as standing rules, shall be obligatory on the churches, it shall be necessary to transmit them to all the Presbyteries, and to receive the returns of at least a majority of the Presbyteries, in writing, approving thereof.'

It is their opinion farther, that these regulations are unnecessary, as the rules previously existing afforded sufficient means of security in the case.

Farther, that these regulations are not only unnecessary, but that in one part of them, they amount to an uncharitable exclusion of foreign ministers and licentiates from having any connection with our body, except upon such terms as appear to us not founded either in reason or Scripture.

Farther, that these regulations appear inconsistent with themselves; for whilst, on the one hand, they amount to an almost total exclusion; on the other, they may serve to subject us to those very evils which they profess to be designed to guard against.

*Resolved*, farther, That a copy of the above resolutions be transmitted to the General Assembly at their next meeting.

AZEL ROE, *Moderator*."

Whereupon, *Resolved*, That Messrs. Graham, Alexander, and Elmer, be appointed a committee to assign the reasons for not complying with the above resolutions, and the petition implied therein.

The motion made the order of the day for this morning, was taken up, and the whole session spent in conversation thereon.

*Resolved*, That the same subject be continued in the afternoon.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment. Present as before.

After prayer, the minutes of the last session were read.

Resumed the free conversation on the state of religion, and the means of promoting it.

Ordered, That the Moderator and Mr. Clark be a committee to bring in a report relative to the objects of this conversation.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, to endeavour to obtain from the Legislature of the state of Pennsylvania an act of incorporation, authorizing certain Trustees to hold the property of the Assembly, &c., report, That on application to the Legislature, they obtained the act of incorporation for which they were directed to apply, a copy of which accompanies this report, corresponding exactly with the draught which was last year submitted to the Assembly, excepting only the sum which the Trustees are authorized to hold, is somewhat smaller than was inserted in that draught.

The above report, and an act of incorporation accompanying it, were read and approved.

The act of incorporation is as follows:

### *An Act for incorporating the Trustees of the Ministers and Elders, constituting the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.*

Whereas, The ministers and elders forming the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, consisting of citizens of the state of Pennsylvania, and of others of the United States aforesaid, have, by their petition, represented, that by donations, bequests, or otherwise, of charitably disposed persons, they are possessed of moneys for benevolent and pious purposes; and the said ministers and elders have reason to expect farther contributions for similar uses; but from the scattered situation of the said ministers and elders, and other causes, the said ministers and elders find it extremely difficult to manage the said funds in the way best calculated to answer the intention of the donors: Therefore,

SECT. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That John Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, Samuel Stanhope Smith, Ashbel Green, William M. Tennent, Patrick Alison, Nathan Irvin, Joseph Clark, Andrew Hunter, Jared Ingersoll, Robert Ralston, Jonathan B. Smith, Andrew Bayard, Elias Boudinot, John Nelson, Ebenezer Hazard, David Jackson, and Robert Smith, merchant, and their successors duly elected and appointed in manner as is hereinafter directed, be, and they are hereby made, declared, and constituted, a corporation and body politic and corporate, in law and in fact, and to have continuance for ever by the name, style, and title of "Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America;" and by the name, style, and title aforesaid, shall, for ever hereafter, be persons able and capable in law, as well to take, receive, and hold, all, and all manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises, and other hereditaments, which at any time or times heretofore have been granted, bargained, sold, enfeoffed, released, devised, or otherwise conveyed to the said ministers and elders of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, or any other person or persons, to their use, or in trust for them; and the same lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises, and other hereditaments, are hereby vested and established in the said corporation and their successors for ever, according to the original use and intent for which such devises, gifts, and grants, were respectively made; and the said corporation and their successors, are hereby declared to be seized and possessed of such estate and estates therein, as by and in the respective grants, bargains, sales, enfeoffments, releases, devises, and other conveyances thereof, is or are declared, limited, and expressed; also, that the said corporation and their successors, at all times hereafter, shall be capable and able to purchase, have, receive, take, hold and enjoy in fee simple, or of lesser estate or estates, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises, and other hereditaments, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, alienation, enfeoffment, release, confirmation, or devise of any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, capable and able to make the same: And farther, that the said ministers and elders, under the corporate name aforesaid, and their successors, may take and receive any sum or sums of money, and any portion of goods and chattels, that have been given to the said ministers and elders, or that hereafter shall be given, sold, leased, or bequeathed, to the said corporation, by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, that is able or capable to make a gift, sale, bequest, or other disposal of the same; such moneys, goods, or chattels, to be laid out and disposed of, for the use and benefit of the aforesaid corporation, agreeably to the intention of the donors, and according to the objects, articles, and conditions of this act.

Sect. 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no misnomer of the said corporation and their successors, shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise, or bequest to or from the said corporation, provided the intent of the party or parties shall sufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, will, grant, or other writing, whereby any estate or interest was intended to pass to, or from the said corporation.

Sect. 3. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors, shall have full power and authority to make, have, and use one common seal, with such device and inscription as they shall think fit and proper; and the same to break, alter, and renew, at their pleasure.

Sect. 4. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors, by the name, style, and title aforesaid, shall be able and capable in law, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any court, or before any judge or justice, in all and all manner of suits, complaints, pleas, matters, and demands, of whatsoever nature, kind, and form they may be; and all and every matter and thing to do, in as full and effectual a manner, as any other person, bodies politic or corporate, within this commonwealth, may or can do.

Sect. 5. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors, shall be and are hereby authorized and empowered to make, ordain, and establish, by-laws and ordinances, and do every thing incident and needful for the support and due government of the said corporation, and managing the funds and revenues thereof: Provided, the said by-laws be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, to the constitution and laws of this commonwealth, or to this act.

Sect. 6. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall not, at any time, consist of more than eighteen persons; whereof the said General Assembly may, at their direction, as often as they shall hold their sessions in the state of Pennsylvania, change one-third, in such manner as to the said General Assembly shall seem proper: and the corporation aforesaid, shall have power and authority to manage and dispose of all moneys, goods, chattels, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and other estate whatsoever, committed to their care and trust, by the said General Assembly; but in cases where special instructions, for the management and disposal thereof, shall be given by the said General Assembly in writing, under the hand of their clerk, it shall be the duty of the said corporation to act according to such instructions; Provided the said instructions shall not be repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, or of the constitution and laws of this commonwealth, or to the provisions and restrictions in this act contained.

Sect. 7. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That six members of this corporation, whereof the president, or in his absence the vice-president, to be one, shall be a sufficient number to transact the business thereof, and to make by-laws, rules, and regulations; Provided, that previous to any meeting of the board or corporation for such purposes, not appointed by adjournment, ten days' notice shall be previously given thereof, in at least one of the newspapers printed in the city of Philadelphia: And the said corporation shall and may, as often as they shall see proper, and according to the rules by them to be prescribed, choose out of their number a president and vice-president, and shall have authority to appoint a treasurer, and such other officers and servants, as shall by them, the said corporation, be deemed necessary; to which officers the said corporation may assign such a compensation for their services, and such duties to be performed by them, to continue in office for such time, and to be succeeded by others in such way and manner as the said corporation shall direct.

Sect. 8. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all questions before the said corporation shall be decided by a plurality of votes, whereof each member present shall have one, except the president, or vice-president, when acting as president, who shall have only the casting voice and vote, in case of an equality in the votes of the other members.

Sect. 9. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall keep regular and fair entries of their proceedings, and a just account of their receipts and disbursements, in a book or books to be provided for that purpose; and their treasurer shall, once in a year, exhibit to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, an exact state of the accounts of the corporation.

Sect. 10. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation may take, receive, purchase, possess, and enjoy, messuages, houses, lands, tenements, rents, annuities, and other hereditaments, real and personal estate of any amount, not exceeding ten thousand dollars a year value, but the said limitations not to be considered as including the annual collections, and voluntary contributions, made in the churches under the care of the said General Assembly.

CADWALADER EVANS, Jun.,
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

ROBERT HARE,
*Speaker of the Senate.*

Approved March 28th, 1799.

THOMAS MIFFLIN,
*Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

Whereupon, on motion,

*Resolved*, 1. That the Trustees mentioned in said act be, and (if their first meeting be not otherwise provided for) they are hereby requested to meet in the Second Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on Wednesday the 26th day of June, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and then and there proceed to the election of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and such other officers as the act of incorporation empowers them to choose, and to such other matters and things as their duty as Trustees shall require. And the Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, is hereby directed to advertise the above time and place of meeting in one of the daily papers of Philadelphia, and in one of the daily papers of the city of New York, at least two weeks before the time of meeting.

*Resolved farther*, That the account presented to this Assembly from Mr. Isaac Snowden, the present Treasurer of the General Assembly, and the report of the committee appointed by the General Assembly of last year, to examine the accounts of Mr. Aitkin, printer and bookseller, together with said account as presented to this Assembly, be referred to the Trustees of the General Assembly of this Church at the time and place for their first meeting; and that Dr. Tennent be directed to transmit said report and accounts accordingly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia made their report, and the book was approved as far as page 185, Vol. 1.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas, made their report, and they were approved as far as the end of the extraordinary session held at Little Britain, North Carolina, February 7th, 1799.

The committee also reported to the Assembly from the records of the Synod of the Carolinas a reference "on the petition of John Latham, who has married his deceased wife's sister's daughter, praying a reconsideration of his case, which was tried and issued against him nine years ago in the Synod of the Carolinas." After some deliberation had on this business, it was deferred for farther consideration till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Wednesday, May 22nd, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met, according to adjournment. Present as before. After prayer, the minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly proceeded to the farther consideration of the reference from the Synod of the Carolinas. After mature deliberation it was

*Resolved*, That the case of John Latham, referred for the decision of the General Assembly, by the Synod of the Carolinas, be remitted to the said Synod, and that they be directed to review the case, and if they shall judge it to be consistent with the existing laws of the State, and the peace of the church, they may admit the persons alluded to, to its privileges.

A copy of this minute was ordered to be signed by the Moderator and transmitted to the Synod of the Carolinas.

The committee to prepare, from the reports of the missionaries, a general one respecting the religious state of the frontiers, and the success of our missionaries, and to settle their accounts, reported as follows, viz:

That there were many thousands of people settled in that extensive tract of country who are anxious to have the gospel and its ordinances dispensed amongst them: some congregations are already formed by the assistance of the missionaries who have at different times visited that portion of the United States through which they travelled, and are growing into a condition to have ministers regularly settled amongst them, and a great many more may, in time, be formed if due attention be given them. That the missionaries had proceeded on their respective tours prescribed by the last General Assembly, and agreeably, with few exceptions, to the instructions given them, and had been faithful in preaching the gospel, and in catechizing and administering the sacraments as it appeared proper and expedient. That thirteen adults and one hundred and fifty-four children were baptized by them. That the people generally appeared to give attention to the word preached with seriousness and solemnity, and several examples of its powerful effect in impressing the heart and reforming the life, had been observed in the course of the respective missions. Upon the whole it appears that very precious and extensive effects to the advancement of religion have flowed from the institution of missions—that there is still great encouragement to prosecute the plan, and to recommend to all the congregations under the care of the Assembly to continue to make public collections once or oftener in the year, to assist in carrying on this benevolent and charitable work.

The committee farther report, that the following balances appear due to the several missionaries, viz:

To Rev. Mr. Asa Dunham, $186—to Mr. John B. Slemons, $93.25—to Mr. John B. Patterson, $88.18—to Mr. John Close, $43.75—to Mr. Asa Hillyer, $37.10.

Ordered, That Mr. Isaac Snowden, Sen., or the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, pay the above balances to the respective persons to whose credit they are entered, or to their order.

Ordered, That those Presbyteries which have not forwarded the moneys which have been collected for the use of the General Assembly, be directed to transmit such moneys as soon as possible to the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The committee appointed to prepare a Pastoral Letter to the churches, reported a draught of one, which was read, and after some amendment was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Dear Friends and Brethren*—Being, by the favour of Divine Providence, constitutionally convened in General Assembly for the purpose of deliberating upon those affairs which respect the welfare and interests of that branch of Christ's church more immediately under our care and superintendence, and having made particular inquiry into the present state of the religious societies and churches within our limits, and of practical religion among them, together with the probable means of promoting the prosperity, and increasing the spirit and power of vital piety and godliness throughout our country; we esteem it our duty to communicate to you the result of our inquiries and deliberations on these important subjects; to suggest to you those duties which we suppose particularly incumbent on you, and such considerations as may seem best calculated, in a proper manner, to affect and influence you.

Know then, dear Brethren, that notwithstanding there is still cause to deplore the prevalence of vice and immorality, to lament that the great duties of religion are not attended to as they ought to be, or that its sacred institutions and ordinances are not duly revered, nor accompanied, in general, with those influences of the Spirit of God which are necessary to give them their desired efficacy; yet, that amidst this generally unfavourable aspect, there are several particular circumstances peculiarly comforting and encouraging.

It appears, alas! that in some parts of our Church there is a prevailing lukewarmness and formality in religion; that the wise virgins are slumbering and sleeping with the foolish; that, through the abounding of iniquity the love of many is waxed cold; and that those pernicious principles which tend to sap the very foundations of religion and morality, to destroy our present peace and comforts, and to blast the hopes of a blessed and glorious immortality, have, in various instances, been imbibed, and produced their unhappy effects. But we have heard from different parts the glad tidings of the outpourings of the Spirit, and of times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. We have heard from several parts of our church, and elsewhere, of the late hopeful conversion of many. From the east, from the west, and from the south, have these joyful tidings reached our ears Yes, of the triumphs of the power and grace of the Redeemer in bringing several determined and avowed infidels into subjection to himself, and making them the willing captives of his cross, have we heard. And in various other places, where the effects are not so powerful and great, we are happy to learn that there is an evident increased respect for the institutions of religion, and attention to its important concerns.

The favourable reports of our missionaries upon our northern and western frontiers, of their labours and successes during the last year, afford rational ground to believe that the appropriations of the voluntary contributions of our Christian brethren for the benevolent purpose of extending the means of religious instruction in those parts of our country, will prove satisfactory to them, and encourage them to further assistance in that way.

Let us not despise the day of comparatively small things. Let us give God the glory for what he has done, and look to him, and trust in him for what we hope he will farther do. This small cloud, which as yet appears but as a man's hand, may overspread our horizon, and plentifully water the churches with the showers of heavenly grace. Lift up your eyes upon the nations of the world. Doth it not appear as if God was arising to shake terribly the earth? Fear not, whatever the designs of Satan and wicked men may be, the Lord reigneth. The administrations of the kingdoms of providence and grace are in the hand of the glorious Mediator. He is given to be the head over all things for the church. "The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voices. The floods lift up their waves. But thou art mighter than they. Thou stillest the noise of the sea, the noise of its waves, and the tumults of the people." All the dispensations of Providence refer to, tend to promote, and shall finally terminate in, the advancement of the best interests of his church and people.

Is there, then, the person who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, who doth not anxiously inquire, What is my duty? What is incumbent on me, or what can I do that will have a tendency to advance the glory of God, the interests of my Redeemer, and the welfare of precious and immortal souls? To all such inquiries we answer, Let each commence the work by vigorous exertions in a diligent use of the means for reviving the life and power of religion in his own soul. Let ministers labour to preach the gospel of Christ ably and faithfully, as those who believe its truth and feel its power, and be conscientious in the discharge of all parochial duties. Let those who are entrusted with the government of the church faithfully exercise its wholesome discipline. Let people be conscientious in regarding the institutions of Christ. Let heads of families be careful to instruct their children, and those committed to their care, in the great principles of our holy religion. Let their morning and evening sacrifices be daily offered up in their families, to God. Let them make conscience of secret duties. Let all sigh and mourn for the prevailing abominations; and for the concern which they have had in provoking the life-giving Spirit of God to suspend and withdraw his gracious influences in so great a degree from the churches. Let those who fear the Lord speak often one to another. Let them individually and in a social capacity importune the throne of grace, and according to his own glorious and condescending language, give God no rest until he appear in his glory, and build up Zion. How happy would it be to see sinners flocking unto Jesus as a cloud and as doves into their windows! To hear many inquiring the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward! To hear believers tell what God has done for their souls—expressing as they are able the glories of the Redeemer, Jesus, the sweetness of redeeming love, their gloryings in the cross of Christ, and their scriptural confidence of a happy immortality; and to see them adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things! O glorious sight, when the churches shall look forth as the morning; fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners: when the righteousness thereof shall go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth, and when all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God!

Christian Friends and Brethren, be not discouraged. Your Redeemer liveth. The triumphing of the wicked is short. Glorious things are spoken of Zion the city of our God. Faithful is he who hath promised. Be not ye then slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Let the love of Christ constrain you to live, not unto yourselves, but unto him who died for you and rose again. Realize the eye of God continually upon you, and his presence continually with you. Realize and improve the sufficiency of grace promised you by your Redeemer. Realize the shortness of your pilgrimage state. Realize that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Realize the transient nature of all temporal things, and the substantial and permanent blessings of the heavenly world. Realize that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, that fulness of joy which is in the presence of God, and those pleasures which are at his right hand for evermore. Sure we are, these considerations are sufficient to animate you in the discharge of every duty, to support and comfort you under every suffering, to enable you to resist temptation, to mortify your corruptions, to overcome the world, and to triumph over death, your last enemy. Shortly shall an entrance be ministered abundantly to every sincere and humble follower of Christ into his everlasting kingdom, where they shall unite with all the redeemed in singing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb. "Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood and hath made us kings and priests unto God, and his Father, be glory and dominion for ever and ever."

Adjourned until 3 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment. Present as before.

After prayer, the minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to state the grounds on which the Assembly has thought proper not to comply with the request of the Presbytery of New York, to reconsider and rescind the regulations established by the last General Assembly relative to the introduction of foreign ministers, reported

1. That the first reason assigned by the Presbytery of New York for their request, is founded on a misinterpretation of an ambiguous expression in the constitution. The sixth section of the eleventh chapter is thus expressed, "Before any overtures or regulations proposed by the Assembly to be established as *standing rules* shall be obligatory on the churches, it shall be necessary to transmit them to all the Presbyteries, and to receive the returns of at least a majority of the Presbyteries in writing, approving thereof." *Standing rules* in this section can refer only to one of the following objects, 1st. To articles of the constitution which, when once established are unalterable by the General Assembly—or 2d. To every rule or law enacted without any term of limitation expressed in the act. The latter meaning would draw after it consequences so extensive and injurious as forbid the Assembly to give the section that interpretation. It would reduce this Assembly to a mere committee to prepare business upon which the Presbyteries might act. It would undo, with few exceptions, all the rules that have been established by this Assembly since its first institution, and would prevent it for ever from establishing any rule not limited by *the terms of the* act itself. Besides, *standing rules*, in the evident sense of the constitution, cannot be predicated of any acts made by the Assembly and repealable by it, because they are limited, in their very nature, to the duration of a year, if it pleases the Assembly to exert the power inherent in it at all times to alter or annul them, and they continue to be rules only by the Assembly's not using its power of repeal. The law in question is no otherwise a *standing rule* than all other laws repealable by this Assembly.

2. The Presbytery of New York also imputes to these rules a defect of charity towards foreign churches. The charity of this Assembly for foreign churches is undiminished. The rule is established to guard as far as possible, against impostors who plead a relation to those churches which they do not actually hold. The churches in America have so frequently suffered by

impostors of this description, and our relative position to Europe and the newness of our country, render imposition so easy, and detection so difficult, that rules too scrupulous on this subject can hardly be adopted. The existing rule, although somewhat irksome to good men, will be cheerfully submitted to for the superior interests of religion. Nay, it is believed, that such men, grieved at the dishonour brought upon the churches of their native country by unworthy emigrants from them into this, will readily co-operate with the Assembly in every measure that will contribute to preserve the purity and respect of their name, and by a state of probationary trial, will tend to discriminate between meritorious and unworthy foreign ministers who shall offer their services to our churches.

3. An inconsistency is supposed, by the Presbytery of New York, farther to exist in one part of the rule to another, because it permits colleges, academies, and individual churches to call from Europe to this country, men of known and good character to preside over them, without subjecting such men to the probation prescribed in other cases. The Assembly does not perceive the inconsistency that has been attempted to be pointed out; especially as no individual church can call a minister from abroad more than at home without the permission and advice of the Presbytery to which it is attached, and who will, in ordinary cases, be able to preserve it from imposition. The Assembly, however does not object to a modification of the rule as far as it relates to academies unconnected with pastoral charges.

4. The Presbytery of New York likewise deem this rule *unnecessary*. The greater part of the Presbyteries composing this Assembly, as far as their opinions can now be collected, esteem it useful. Time will either confirm its utility, or point out the amendments of which it is susceptible.

Your committee further advise a reference of this article of the Constitution to the respective Presbyteries for their interpretation, at the same time recommending to them to advise and empower the next General Assembly to substitute the phrase *constitutional rules*, in this article, in the room of that of *standing rules*.

The above report was accepted, and ordered to be inserted on the minutes, and agreeably to the last article, the respective Presbyteries were and they are hereby required to send up to the next Assembly their opinion on the section of the Constitution referred to, and if they think proper, to advise and empower said Assembly to make the alteration therein proposed in the phraseology of this section, according to the mode pointed out in the Constitution for effecting any alteration in that instrument.

Dr. McKnight and Mr. Hillyer dissented from the decision of the Assembly on the above business.

The following supplies to the pulpits of the Rev. Drs. Rodgers and Muir, and the Rev. Mr. Finley, appointed delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, were ordered, viz:

To supply the pulpit of the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Rev. Mr. Faitoute, the third Sabbath of June. Rev. Mr. Nathan Woodhull, the fourth Sabbath of June.

To supply the pulpit of the Rev. Dr. Muir, Rev. Mr. Brackenridge the second Sabbath of June. Mr. Le Grand the fourth and fifth. Mr. Maffit the third. Mr. Hill the first and second, do. of July. Mr. Hoge the third. Mr. Le Grand the fourth and fifth.

To supply the pulpit of the Rev. Mr. Finley, Rev. Mr. William Boyd, the third Sabbath of June, and Mr. Richards the fourth Sabbath of June.

Drs. Ashbel Green and John B. Smith, and Mr. John McCulloh were appointed a committee to superintend the printing of one thousand copies of the extracts from the Minutes of the General Assembly; and also to distribute them in equal proportions among the Presbyteries belonging to this body.

Ordered, That they draw upon the Treasurer, Mr. Isaac Snowden, Sen'r, or the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, for the amount of the expenses which may be incurred in the execution of this business.

Ordered, That the Treasurer, Mr. Isaac Snowden, or the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, pay to each of the delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, at the rate of two dollars for every forty miles in going to and coming from their place of meeting, and two dollars for every day's attendance.

The Rev. George Scott, a missionary sent out by the Synod of New York and New Jersey to itinerate during the winter on the north-western frontiers, forwarded his report to the Assembly, which having been read, on application from the Synod of New York and New Jersey,

*Resolved*, That said Mr. Scott be received as a missionary of this Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Thursday, May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment. Present as before, except Mr. Knox, who was absent without leave. After prayer, the minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to bring in a report on the result of the free conversation on the state of religion, and the most probable means to advance its progress, offered the following to the consideration of the Assembly :—

"The committee appointed to bring in a report on the result of the free conversation on the state of religion, and the most probable means to advance its progress, beg leave to offer the following to the consideration of the Assembly :

There appears, from the whole view of religion within the limits of the churches subject to the inspection and care of the General Assembly, to be ground both of mutual congratulation and of affliction to the friends of piety. In many portions of the United States, its interests appear to be in a favourable progression ; in others, there is great room to lament the declension of the vital spirit of religion and the openness and boldness of impiety and immorality. A vain and pernicious philosophy has, in many instances, spread its infection from Europe to America, and the introduction of a multitude of licentious and unprincipled writings has poisoned the sources of morals in certain classes of society, or in particular districts of the church. It requires, under the gracious direction and influence of Divine Providence, the awakened zeal and combined exertions of all the friends of the gospel of Christ, and especially of its ministers and other officers, to arrest the progress of vice and profaneness, and to advance the principles and practice of virtue and piety. For this end it seems to be requisite to revive and invigorate our attention to the qualifications and improvements of the ministry ; to the wise and faithful discharge of our pastoral duties, and to the extension of the means of grace to those portions of our country that have hitherto been destitute of this blessing.

Your committee therefore recommend to the General Assembly to enjoin it upon all their Presbyteries,

1. To take the most effectual order in their power to increase, if possible, the qualifications of candidates for the gospel ministry with regard both to sincere piety, and solid and extensive learning, that the improvements of the pulpit may keep full pace with the progress of society and letters.

2. That they will endeavour, as far as the state of society in different parts

of our church will permit, to withdraw the ministers of the gospel from every worldly avocation for the maintenance of themselves and families, that they may devote themselves entirely to the work of the ministry; and that for this end, they labour to convince the people of the advantage that will accrue to themselves from making such adequate provision for the support of their teachers and pastors, that they may be employed wholly in their sacred calling. And in those places where it may be found prudent and practicable, that they devise means to have the contracts between congregations and pastors examined in the Presbyteries at stated periods, inquiries instituted with regard to the reciprocal fulfilment of duties and engagements, and endeavours used to promote punctuality and fidelity in both parties, before distress on one side, or complaint on the other, grow to a height unfavourable to the interests of religion.

3. That inasmuch as the clergy, in many situations in the country, have it not in their power to furnish themselves with libraries so various and extensive as to enable them to discharge their office in the manner most useful to the people, most dignified for the pulpit, and most honourable for religion, it be recommended to the Presbyteries to take measures to promote the establishment of congregational libraries, under such regulations that the Presbyteries shall have the principal direction in the choice of the books with which those libraries shall be furnished; the ministers of the respective churches shall have the immediate care and the constant use of them, and that means be used to make annual augmentations to them.

4. That in the discharge of pastoral duties, they take the utmost care that the word of God be known and understood by the people, and that for this purpose, in their public instructions the practice of lecturing on certain portions of holy Scripture, be not laid aside, but rather revived and increased; that they endeavour, where it is prudent and practicable, to institute private societies, for reading, prayer, and pious conversation; above all that they be faithful in the duties of family visitation, and the catechetical instruction of children and youth. And that in order to aid these views, they endeavour to engage the sessions of the respective congregations, or other men most distinguished for intelligence and piety in them, to assume, as trustees, the superintendence and inspection of the schools established for the initiation and improvement of children in the elements of knowledge; to see that they be provided with teachers of grave and respectable characters; and that these teachers, among other objects of their duty, instruct their pupils in the principles of religion, which should be done as often as possible in the presence of one or more of the aforesaid trustees; under the deep conviction that the care and education of children, the example set before them, and the first impressions made on their minds, are of the utmost importance to civil society as well as to the church.

5. That inasmuch as the General Assembly are assiduously labouring to promote the gospel throughout our extensive and growing frontiers, and in those places most destitute of the means of grace, it be earnestly enjoined on each Presbytery to use their most diligent endeavours to collect voluntary and liberal contributions from every congregation, whether furnished with a pastor or vacant, and to obtain pious donations and bequests in order to supply the funds which are absolutely necessary to carry on with advantage the great and charitable work. Let ministers study to impress the minds of the people with the importance of the object; be diligent in their own exertions to promote it, and punctual in forwarding their contributions to the Treasurers of the Commissions of the Southern Synods, or to the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; assured that, without their faithful aid and co-operation, missions and other

undertakings of utility to the church, so piously begun, and hitherto conducted with such promising prospects of success, must eventually fail. And let it be required of all the Presbyteries, that they annually send up to the General Assembly, along with the duplicates of their reports, exact accounts of all moneys received and transmitted for these objects, that they may be used as checks on the treasury.

6. That the recommendations and regulations that are from year to year made and published by the General Assembly may always be known and present in the judicatories of the church for their direction and government, that it be required that each Presbytery, Synod, and the General Assembly for ever, preserve one copy of the extracts or journals that are yearly published for its own use; that it shall be indexed, &c., stitched or bound with those that have preceded it, in the manner that shall be deemed most expedient, and that the whole shall be always kept at, or brought up to the place of meeting of such Presbytery, Synod, or General Assembly, along with their own records. That they send up with their yearly reports, a schedule containing the number of communicants belonging to each of their churches, and also the number of persons yearly baptized, whether in infancy or at adult age.

All which is humbly submitted by your committee.

The report being read,

*Resolved*, That it be approved and adopted; and,

Ordered, That the several Synods, Presbyteries, and individual churches, as far as they are respectively concerned, govern themselves accordingly.

The committee to settle the accounts of the missionaries, report, that there is due to Mr. George Scott, for his labours as missionary, one hundred and sixty-five dollars and eighty-four cents.

Ordered, That the Treasurer, Mr. Isaac Snowden, or the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, pay to the Rev. Joseph Clark, for Mr. George Scott, the above mentioned sum.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment. Present as before.

After prayer, the minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly of last year, to inquire into the religious state of our extensive western frontiers, and whether any, and what alterations may, with probable advantage, be made in our present plan of managing the missions in those parts, reported as follows, viz:

The committee appointed by the General Assembly of last year, to inquire, &c., beg leave to report, That on the most careful inquiry your committee, have been able to make, the state of religion in our western frontiers is, on the whole, promising. Through the blessing of God on the labours of missionaries heretofore employed in those parts, several respectable congregations have been formed; the dispositions of the people are, in general, favourable to the establishment of the pure worship and ordinances of the gospel amongst them. The Assembly's missionaries have been received with much respect, their ministrations attended to with a becoming seriousness; a cordial thankfulness for their labours, and an earnest desire that farther aid may be afforded them in this way, appear to be the prevailing sentiments of the people in those parts.

But as that new and extensive country is settling by emigrations from various parts of the United States, and from other countries; and as teachers of various denominations have gone into that country, there is, of course, a considerable variety in the religious sentiments that prevail there.

The denominations most distinguished and numerous, are the Congregational, the Presbyterian, and the Baptist. A great proportion of characters of the first respectability for intelligence, property, and influence, come forward and exert themselves for the establishment and prosperity of the institutions of religion.

As to the method of managing the missions in those parts with the greatest probable advantage, your committee are of opinion, that a part of the report of the Committee on Missions brought in last year, should be carefully regarded, viz : " That missions ought to be conducted by men of ability, piety, zeal, prudence, and popular talents ; that missionaries should be employed in preaching the most important doctrines of the gospel, commonly called the doctrines of grace, during the short period which they can afford to stay in a particular place; that they organize churches when opportunity offers, and administer ordinances; and that they catechize and instruct from house to house, as far as practicable, when they remain for any length of time in any settlement ; that they refrain from all political or party discussions of any kind ; and, with the self-denial of their Master, be wholly devoted to their ministry, and exemplary in their conversation. Also, that in keeping their journals, they distinctly record the subjects on which they preach, and the apparent effect on their hearers.

Your committee add to the above, as the result of experience, that it is of considerable importance, that the missionaries be well acquainted with the forms of government, as well of the Congregational as of the Presbyterian church.

Your committee are farther of opinion, that it would be of the utmost importance in the missionary business, that one or more persons of suitable character take up their residence in towns the most convenient for the objects of their appointment, whose business it should be, beside the ordinary duties of missionaries, to receive applications from the different settlements in those parts of our frontiers ; to attend to the particular rising exigencies amongst them ; to be a common medium of information ; and for aiding and directing such missionaries as may be annually sent out by the General Assembly. That in case suitable characters can be procured to undertake this business, your committee are of opinion that Fort Schuyler on the Mohawk River, and Geneva on the Seneca Lake, are the two most proper towns for such residence. But until a plan as above contemplated be effected, your committee are of opinion, that the General Assembly continue to send annually as many missionaries of suitable character as can be procured ; and that the terms of their continuance in that country, should, if possible, be longer than has been usual.

Your committee are also of opinion, that the labours of the missionaries will be rendered both more easy and more successful, if they pursue their routes on the frontiers, as much as possible, by two and two.

The following routes are pointed out as, in the judgment of your committee, the most proper to be pursued by the Assembly's missionaries for the present year ; and, as the following gentlemen have been reported and received as proper persons to be employed on the mission, your committee advise that the Rev. David Barclay, and Robert Logan, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Lexington, commence their route at Tioga Point, on the 15th day of June next ; thence to proceed into the counties of Steuben and Ontario, and spend three months or more in the principal settlements in those counties.

That the Rev. John Lindsley, and the Rev. James G. Force, begin their route at Minisink, on the Delaware, at farthest on the first day of August next, and visit the settlements in the Beech Woods; then passing to the Owego on the Susquehanna, proceed to the settlements on the Shenango and Unadilla Rivers; and that they continue their labours in those parts four months or longer.

And that the Rev. Methuselah Baldwin commence his missionary labours in the vicinity of Onondago, not later than the first day of August next, and spend three months or more in that vicinity, in connection with Mr. Williston, a missionary from the General Association of Connecticut.

From the evident necessity of, and frequent inquiries after, the Confession of Faith and System of Discipline of this Church in that vicinity, your committee recommend that measures be taken to have a number of copies of that book distributed amongst the societies formed and forming there.

The above report, having been read and duly considered, was approved. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That regular commissions be furnished to the respective missionaries, signed by the Stated Clerk, prescribing in the commissions the routes which they are respectively to pursue. And that the missionaries account with the Assembly for any contributions which they may receive on their mission.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Mr. John McCulloh be, and he is hereby requested, to receive from Mr. Robert Aitkin, printer, three hundred copies of the Confession of Faith and Discipline of this Church; and that he transmit one hundred copies to James Hathaway, Esq., at Fort Stanwix; and one hundred copies to Evans and Gordon at Geneva; and fifty copies to Doctor John Hopkins at Tioga Point; and fifty copies to Mathias Hollenback, Esq., at Wilkesbarre, to be by these gentlemen distributed and sold as hereafter directed.

*Resolved*, farther, That the persons with whom the books shall be lodged at the above named places, be directed to deliver any number of said books to the order of any one of the missionaries sent by the General Assembly into those frontier countries; and that they sell of said books to any persons applying for the same, at one dollar per copy; and that they account with Mr. McCulloh for the sale and distribution of said books so delivered to them. And also, that Mr. McCulloh account with the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, that may be hereafter appointed, for his whole agency in this business.

*Resolved*, farther, That the missionaries of the General Assembly may, and they are hereby directed, to give orders on those gentlemen, with whom the books are lodged as above, in behalf of the congregations formed and forming on our frontiers, at the rate of one book for each congregation so formed or forming, to be to them gratuitously bestowed by the General Assembly.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Doctors Rodgers and McWhorter be a committee to endeavour to procure one or two persons, to be employed as resident missionaries on our frontiers, agreeably to the report of the committee on the plan of missions, and make report at the next General Assembly.

Ordered, That Dr. Smith, and Mr. Samuel Snowden, be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Barclay, and Mr. Van Artsdalen; and Mr. Hillyer, to appoint supplies to the pulpit of Mr. Force.

Ordered, That Messrs. Hunter and Finley be paid twelve dollars each for their services as Clerks during the present sessions of the Assembly.

Ordered, That the sum of one dollar and eighty-seven cents be allowed to Mr. John McCulloh for the postage of papers directed to this Assembly.

Ordered, That Mr. John McCulloh pay to the missionaries, in proportion to their several balances, any moneys in his hands belonging to the General Assembly.

Ordered, That the Treasurer pay to each of the missionaries for this year thirty dollars in advance.

*Resolved,* That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday in May, A. D., 1800, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Whereupon, the Moderator dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution, and concluded with prayer.

### SUMMARY FOR 1799.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY. | | | | |
| New York, | 17 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| New Brunswick, | 16 | 2 | 4 | 13 |
| Albany, | 12 | 1 | 1 | 15 |
| Long Island, | 11 | 3 | | 4 |
| Hudson, | 7 | 1 | | 7 |
| SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA. | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 12 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| New Castle, | 10 | 4 | 5 | 13 |
| Carlisle, | 13 | 4 | 5 | 11 |
| Huntingdon, | 8 | 4 | 1 | 20 |
| Baltimore, | 10 | 3 | | 3 |
| Lewes, | 3 | 1 | | 9 |
| SYNOD OF VIRGINIA. | | | | |
| Hanover, | 6 | 3 | 1 | 15 |
| Lexington, | 6 | 3 | 4 | 16 |
| Redstone, | 8 | | 1 | 23 |
| Ohio, | 9 | 1 | | 15 |
| Winchester, | 5 | | 3 | 5 |
| Transylvania, | 10 | | | |
| Western Lexington, | 9 | | | |
| Washington, | 7 | | | |
| SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS. | | | | |
| Orange, | 9 | | | |
| South Carolina, | 16 | | 5 | 22 |
| Abingdon, | 3 | 1 | | |
| Concord, | 15 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| Hopewell, | 3 | | | 6 |
| Union, | 5 | 1 | | |
| Total, | 230 | 36 | 35 | 219 |

DEATHS.—In the Presbytery of Long Island, the Rev. Samuel Buel, and the Rev. David Rose, died since last report, date not reported; in the Presbytery of Hopewell, the Rev. John Springer died September, 1798.

◆

## 1800.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 15*th*, A. D., 1800.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met according to appointment, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. S. S. Smith, the Moderator of last Assembly, from the third verse of the Epistle of Jude: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you, that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

After prayer, the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following persons were duly appointed commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—Messrs. Alexander Kelly and James Boyd, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Messrs. Andrew King and Jonathan Freeman.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Doctors John Rodgers and Alexander McWhorter, the Rev. Messrs. Jedediah Chapman and James G. Force; with Messrs. John Mills, Stephen Wheeler, and Stephen Baldwin, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith, and the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Clark and George Spafford Woodhull; with Col. John Bayard, Isaac Snowden, Esq., and Dr. Moses Scott, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Mr. George Faitoute.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, the Rev. Messrs. John Davenport and Nathaniel Irwin; with Dr. Jonathan Elmer and Robert McMullin, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Mr. Samuel Martin; with Mr. James Cummings and Col. John Steel, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Messrs. John Linn, James Snodgrass, and Robert Cathcart.

PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—The Rev. Mr. John B. Slemons.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. Dr. James Muir.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. Messrs. John B. Patterson, John Johnson, and David Wiley; with Mr. Samuel Hutchinson, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. Mr. Moses Hoge.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. Messrs. James Power and James Dunlap; with John Wright and Edward Cooke, Esquires, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. Messrs. Joseph Patterson and Samuel Ralston.

PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—The Rev. Mr. Robert Wilson.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. Mr. Drury Lacy.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—The Rev. Mr. John Anderson.

PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—The Rev. Mr. Joseph D. Kilpatrick.

SECOND PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—The Rev. Mr. Robert Wilson.

The Rev. Nathan Perkins, pastor of the church of West Hartford, in the state of Connecticut, exhibited a certificate of his appointment as a delegate from the General Association of Connecticut to this Assembly; which being read and approved, he took his seat accordingly.

The Assembly proceeded to the appointment of a Moderator and Clerks; when the Rev. Joseph Clark was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Messrs. Drury Lacy and Nathaniel Irwin were chosen Clerks.

The Rev. Messrs. Chapman, King, Davenport, Linn, Power, Wilson, Kilpatrick, and Faitoute; and Messrs. Steel, Snowden, Baldwin, Kelly, Wright, McMullin, Hutchinson, and Bayard, elders, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church to-morrow morning at six o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments, as occasion shall require.

Drs. Green and Muir, and Edward Cook, Esq., were appointed a committee to review the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Freeman, and Dr. Scott, were appointed a committee to review the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

Dr. Smith, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Wheeler, were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

The Assembly proceeded to read the Minutes of the last Assembly, and after some progress therein,

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Friday morning*, 9 *o'clock, May* 16*th*, 1800.

The Assembly met and constituted with prayer. Present as before.

Ordered, To read the minutes of last session.

The commissions of Dr. Jonathan Elmer, an elder of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and of the Rev. Moses Hoge, of the Presbytery of Winchester, were read; and being found regular, they were admitted to their seats as commissioners.

The reading of the Minutes of last Assembly was resumed and finished.

Dr. Green laid before the Assembly a petition from a body styling themselves "The Presbytery of Charleston in South Carolina," requesting to be received into connection with this body, accompanied with other papers; which being read—On motion,

*Resolved*, That Drs. Rodgers, McWhorter, and Green, and the Rev. Messrs. Cathcart, Wilson, and Anderson, be a committee to take the same into consideration, and report to the Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

A letter from the Rev. Andrew Law to the Assembly, accompanied with a plan for the improvement of Psalmody, was brought in and read.

Ordered, That the Rev. Messrs. Perkins, King, Freeman, Chapman, Snodgrass, and Drs. Scott and Elmer, elders, be appointed a committee to bring in a report on this subject as soon as convenient.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted with prayer. Present as before.

The commission of John Watson, Esq., a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Huntingdon, was read, which being found sufficient, he was admitted to his seat as a commissioner.

Ordered, To read the minutes of last session.

The committee appointed to review the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey reported, and the book was approved (a few inaccuracies excepted) to page 132.

On motion, Agreed that it be the order of to-morrow morning to receive the reports of the Presbyteries on the sixth article of the eleventh chapter of the Constitution; and to take into consideration other subjects connected therewith.

Ordered, That the Synods bring in their reports on Monday morning.

The committee appointed to dispose of the interest of money in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, subject to the disposal of the General Assembly, reported, That they executed their trust, and appropriated said interest to the support of Mr. Benjamin Hopkins, a student of divinity, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith.

On motion, the Rev. Messrs. Samuel F. Snowden and Robert Finley were appointed a committee to meet the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, on the last Wednesday of September next, and agree with them respecting the disposition of the interest that shall accrue for the current year, on the moneys aforesaid. And

*Resolved*, farther, That the Trustees of the Assembly be requested to direct that the said interest be paid to such persons as the said committee shall recommend.

The committee appointed to review the Minutes of the Synod of the Carolinas reported, and the records were approved, with the exception of a few inaccuracies, as far as November 6th, 1799.

On motion, it was agreed, that Mr. Cathcart and Mr. McMullin be a committee to inquire how far the trust committed by the last General Assembly to Mr. John McCulloh, respecting the distribution of certain books and the payment of certain moneys into the treasury has been executed, and to report to this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

It appearing that the extracts made from time to time from the minutes of the General Assembly have not obtained a general and seasonable circulation among the Presbyteries—it was, therefore,

*Resolved*, That Dr. Smith, the Rev. Messrs. Drury Lacy, Robert Wilson, John Anderson, and Moses Hoge, with Edward Cook, Esq., and Dr. Elmer, be a committee to devise and report the best method of insuring an early and full distribution of such extracts as shall hereafter be made.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 17*th*, 1800, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The General Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The committee appointed to make inquiries respecting the trust committed to Mr. John McCulloh by the last Assembly, reported, that they made the necessary inquiries, and find that the occurrence of the pestilential fever in this city, the sickness and death of Mr. McCulloh, prevented him from making the distribution of books with which he had been charged; but that the moneys committed to him had been duly paid to the Treasurer of the corporation of the General Assembly.

The committee to whom was referred by the General Assembly the consideration of an application from the Charleston Presbytery, in South Carolina, to be taken into connection with the Assembly, made their report, which being corrected, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

"After examining the papers and propositions brought forward by the Charleston Presbytery, the committee think it expedient that the General Assembly refer this business to the consideration of the Synod of the Carolinas, with whom this Presbytery must be connected, if they become a constituent part of our body. That the said Synod be informed that the Presbytery ought, in the event of a connection with us, to be allowed to enjoy and manage, without hindrance or control, all funds and moneys that are now in their possession; and that the congregations under the care of the Presbytery be permitted freely to use the system of psalmody which they have already adopted. That, on the other hand, the Synod must be careful to ascertain that all the ministers and congregations belonging to the Presbytery do fully adopt, not only the doctrine, but the form of government and discipline of our Church. That the Synod of the Carolinas, under the guidance of these general principles, should be directed, if agreeable to them and to the Presbytery, to receive said Presbytery as a part of that Synod. But if the Synod or the Presbytery find difficulties in finally deciding on this subject, that they may refer such difficulties and transmit all the information they may collect relative to this business, to the next General Assembly."

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish the parties concerned with an attested copy of the above minute.

A motion was made and seconded, that the Assembly proceed to the order of the day.

On the question to agree to the same, it was determined in the affirmative.

Whereupon the Presbyteries were required to make their reports on the article of the Constitution referred to them by the last Assembly; when the Presbyteries of Hudson, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, Huntingdon, Ohio, and Orange, reported their opinion, that the said article ought to be altered in the manner proposed by the last Assembly, and authorizing this Assembly to make the alteration.

The Presbyteries of New York, Long Island, Carlisle, and Baltimore, reported their opinion, that the said alteration ought not to be made.

The other Presbyteries not having forwarded reports to the Assembly on this subject—therefore, on motion,

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries which have not reported be careful to send up their reports to the next General Assembly.

An overture was made by the Presbytery of Baltimore to repeal the act of the Assembly made in the year 1798, respecting the admission of foreign ministers, in the following words, viz:

"The regulations respecting the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates adopted by the General Assembly of 1798, were read and considered.

*Resolved*, That the said regulations are a breach of the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of the Constitution, being established as standing rules, obligatory on the churches without the consent and approbation of a majority of the Presbyteries, and even without their having been consulted on the subject. It is, therefore, overtured, that the regulations aforesaid be dismissed until constitutionally adopted, which measure is deemed advisable.

Signed, JAMES MUIR, *Moderator*."

It was then moved and seconded that the request contained in the overture from the Presbytery of Baltimore be not granted, inasmuch as this Assembly consider the act referred to in said overture as entirely constitutional.

After some time spent in discussing the subject, the Assembly adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday, May 19th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and constituted with prayer.

Members present as before.

Ordered, That the minutes of the last session be read.

The commission of Mr. James Orme, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Baltimore, was read and approved, whereupon he took his seat as a member of this Assembly.

The Rev. Mr. David Barclay, who had been appointed a missionary by the last General Assembly, made a written report purporting that he had fulfilled the mission assigned him, and giving a detailed account of his progress and success.

The Assembly accepted and approved the report.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the overtures from the Baltimore Presbytery, and having spent considerable time thereon, adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment and constituted with prayer.

Members present as before.

Ordered, To read the minutes of last session.

The Assembly having again resumed the consideration of the overture from Baltimore Presbytery, after full deliberation thereon, the question was taken, and determined in the negative:

Whereas, The act of incorporation provides that the General Assembly may, at their discretion, as often as they shall hold their sessions in the state of Pennsylvania, change one third in such manner as to the General Assembly shall seem proper.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Mr. Irwin and Dr. Elmer, Col. Bayard and Mr. Snowden, be a committee, to consider whether any and what changes, may be necessary in the members of the corporation, and make their report as soon as convenient.

The delegates of the General Assembly to the General Association of the churches of Connecticut, which met in Hartford, June 18th, 1799, reported, "That they attended during the whole time of their sitting; that they were received with the utmost cordiality and treated with great attention and respect; that the business which came before them was chiefly of a local nature; that the Association have appointed a committee to revise alterations in, and amendments to, Dr. Watts's version of the Psalms of David, made by the Rev. Dr. Dwight, to be joined by a committee from the General Assembly, as will appear from the inclosed extract No. 1. That they have appointed a committee to make out regular certificates for their ministers and candidates, as will appear from No. 2: And that the next Association will meet at the house of the Rev. A. R. Robinson, at Norfolk, in the county of Litchfield, on the third Tuesday of June, 1800, at 11 o'clock, A. A.

John Rodgers.
Robert Finley."

The Synod of New York and New Jersey reported, that they consist of five Presbyteries, viz:

1. The Presbytery of Albany, consisting of thirteen members, of whom ten have charges, and two have not charges, and one is President of Union College, in Schenectady. That they have no licentiates under their care. That they have eight vacancies each able to support a minister, and six that are unable; as appears by report No. 1.

2. The Presbytery of Hudson, consisting of nine members, six of whom have charges, and three have no charges. That they have no licentiates under their care. That they have ten vacant congregations one of which is able to support a minister; as appears by report No. 2.

3. The Presbytery of New York, consisting of eighteen members, of whom sixteen have charges. That they have one licentiate under their care, and four vacant congregations, each able to support a minister; as appears by report No. 3.

4. The Presbytery of Long Island, consisting of fourteen ministers, of whom eleven have charges, and three have not charges. That they have one licentiate under their care. And two vacant congregations able to support a minister, and two that are not able; as appears by report No. 4.

5. The Presbytery of New Brunswick, consisting of seventeen members, of whom fourteen have charges, and two have not charges, and one is President of New Jersey College. That they have four licentiates under their care, and nine vacant congregations which are in a united capacity able to support ministers, and one that is able to support a minister alone; as appears by report No. 5.

The Synod of Philadelphia report to the General Assembly to meet at Philadelphia, May 15th, 1800, that the Synod consists of six Presbyteries, as follows, viz:

The Presbytery of Philadelphia, consisting of eighteen ministers, of whom sixteen only have pastoral charges, namely—the Rev. Dr. John Ewing, copastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Dr. Samuel Blair, without pastoral charge; Rev. James Boyd, pastor of Newton, and Bensalem; Dr. William M. Tennent, pastor of Abingdon, Norriton, and Providence; Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, of Neshaminy; Rev. John Davenport, of

Deerfield; Dr. Ashbel Green, co-pastor Second Presbyterian Church Philadelphia; Rev. Ethan Osborn, pastor of Fairfield; Rev. Abijah Davis, without pastoral charge; Rev. William Clarkson, pastor of Bridgeton and Greenwich; Rev. Nathaniel Harris, of Penns Neck and Alloways Creek; Rev. Robert Russel, of Allens Township; Rev. Uriah Dubois, of Deep Run and Tinicum; Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, co-pastor of Second Presbyterian church Philadelphia; John B. Linn, co-pastor of First Presbyterian church, Philadelphia; William Latta, pastor of Great Valley and Charlestown; Thomas Picton, of Woodbury and Timber Creek; and Buckley Carl, of Pitts Grove, *Licentiate.*—Mr. Potts. *Vacancies.*—The Third and Fourth Presbyterian churches of Philadelphia, and Cape May, able each to support a minister.

The Presbytery of Lewes, consisting of five ministers, of whom only four have pastoral charges, viz: Revs. Samuel McMasters, pastor of Snow Hill, Pitts Creek and Rehoboth; John Burton, of Lewes, Cold Spring, and Indian River; William McKee without a pastoral charge; John Johnson, pastor of Murderkill and Three Runs; and John B. Slemons, of Wicomico and Monokin. *Licentiate.*—Mr. James Laird. *Vacancies.*—Buckingham, and Queen Ann's, able each to support a minister. Dover and Duck Creek, able in conjunction to support a stated pastor, and Johns Town not able.

The Presbytery of Baltimore, consisting of eight ministers, of whom seven only have pastoral charges, viz: the Rev. Dr. Patrick Alison, pastor of Baltimore; James Muir, of Alexandria; the Rev. Mr. Stephen B. Balch, of Georgetown (Potomac); John Breckenridge, of Washington; Enoch Mattson of Bermuda; Adam Freeman, of Seneca, St. Johns, and Difficult; Samuel Knox, of Frederick; and William Maffit, without pastoral charge. *Vacancy*—Soldier's Delight, not able to support a minister.

The Presbytery of Carlisle, consisting of eighteen ministers, of whom thirteen only have pastoral charges, viz: the Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit, President of Dickinson College; Robert Cooper, without a charge; the Rev. James Lang, Pastor of Lower East Connegocheague; Dr. John King, of Upper West Connegocheague; Messrs. Thomas McPherrin, John Black, and Daniel Jones, without pastoral charges; John Linn, pastor of Sherman's Valley; Dr. Robert Davidson, of Carlisle; Mr. Samuel Waugh, of Silver Spring and Monaghan; James Snodgrass, of Hanover; William Paxton, of Lower Marsh Creek; Robert Cathcart, of York Town and Hopewell; Nathaniel R. Snowden, of Harrisburgh; David Denny, of Path Valley; John Boyd, of Tuscarora and Falling Waters; Joshua Williams, of Derry and Paxton; and Francis Heron of Rocky Spring. *Licentiates*—Messrs. James McClene, David McConnaughy, and Matthew Brown. *Vacancies*—Middle Spring, Big Spring, and Chamber's Town, able each to support a minister. Upper March Creek and Connewago, united, able to support a minister; Piney Creek and Tom's Creek, united, also able; Lower West Connegocheague, Great Cove, Williamsport, Bedford, and Mouth of Juniata, not able.

The Synod further report, that no report has been made to them from the Presbyteries of New Castle and of Huntingdon (also constituent parts of the Synod) since their last report to the General Assembly, to which they beg leave to refer. NATHANIEL IRWIN, *Stated Clerk of Synod.*

*Philadelphia, May 13th,* 1800.

The Committee of Overtures were called upon to report, and four overtures were read and entered on the Docket.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 20*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Drs Smith, Rodgers, McWhorter, Green, Muir, Messrs. Irwin, Wilson, of South Carolina, Linn, King; with Messrs. Elmer, Watson, and Cook, elders, be a committee to consider the regulations made by the Assembly in the year 1798, respecting the introduction of foreign ministers, and to report such modifications and amendments of the same, as may appear conducive to the general interests of the Church.

The Treasurer of the Corporation of the Assembly laid before the house a statement of his accounts, dated May 19th, 1800, by which it appeared that there was a balance in his hands, in favour of the corporation, of $753.15.

A reference from the Synod of Virginia, respecting the credentials of a certain Mr. Steele, an ordained minister from the Presbytery of Londonderry, in Ireland, was brought in and read. The Synod having found some difficulties respecting the sufficiency of Mr. Steele's testimonials, referred the same to the Assembly for their direction in the premises.

The testimonials and other documents respecting Mr. Steele's character and standing were read;—whereupon it was

*Resolved*, That the said testimonials are sufficient to authorize any Presbytery to receive Mr. Steele on probation, agreeably to the regulations which are or shall be adopted respecting the introduction of foreign ministers.

Ordered that Mr. Steele's testimonials and other papers, be returned to him, and that the Stated Clerk furnish him with an attested copy of the above minute.

The committee appointed to review the records of the Synod of Philadelphia reported, and the book was approved to page 184.

Dr. Rodgers and Ebenezer Hazard, Esq., a committee from the Corporation of the General Assembly, appeared in the house, and informed that they had been instructed to communicate to this Assembly the minutes of the Corporation, a statement of their funds, an address delivered to the Corporation by their President, the honourable Elias Boudinot, together with the report of a committee of the said Corporation, and approved by them, submitting a plan for augmenting their funds and directing their application.

The several communications were read. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly take into consideration this afternoon the plan of the Corporation respecting the management of the funds.

Col. Steele, of the Presbytery of New Castle, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted with prayer. Present as before.

The Rev. Messrs. John Warford and John Lindsley, commissioners from the Presbytery of Albany, produced their commissions, which being read and approved, they took their seats.

The commissioners from the Presbytery of Albany who were not present at the time of receiving the reports of the different Presbyteries on the reference of the 6th section of the 11th chapter of the constitution, laid before the Assembly the report of the Presbytery of Albany thereupon, who declared that they think it improper that the Assembly should make any alteration in the above mentioned section.

The Revs. Drs. Rodgers and McWhorter, who were a committee appointed by the last General Assembly to endeavour to procure one or two persons proper to be employed as resident missionaries on the frontiers of the United States, reported—That they have attended to the business of their appointment, and recommend the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, of the Presbytery of New York, as a person well qualified to answer the design of the General Assembly.

Dr. Smith had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

A motion was made to postpone the consideration of the report of the committee of the corporation of the Assembly till to-morrow morning, which was agreed to.

The committee to whom was committed the letter from Mr. Law on the subject of church music, made their report; after some consideration of the same, it was,

*Resolved*, That although this Assembly entertain a high opinion of the character and talents of Mr. Law as a composer and teacher of psalmody, yet as the collection of church music proposed by Mr. Law, is not yet ready to be laid before the Assembly, they cannot with propriety recommend it to the churches; but doubt not, that when Mr. Law shall have completed his collection, and shall lay it before any future Assembly, they will give it all due attention.

Mr. George S. Woodhull obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

The Synod of the Carolinas reports, That it consists of the following Presbyteries, viz:

1. *Presbytery of Orange.*—Rev. Henry Patillo, Grassy Creek and Nutbush; Rev. David Caldwell, Buffalo and Allamance; Rev. Colin Lindsey; Rev. William Moore, Upper and Lower Hico; Rev. William Hodge, without a charge; Rev. Samuel Sanford, Black River and Brown Marsh; Rev. Angus McDermot, Barbecue Bluff, and McCays; Rev. James Bowman, Eno and Little River; Rev. William Thompson, Newhope; Rev John Gellaspie, Centre, Laurel Hill and Raft Swamp; Rev. William D. Paisley, Union and Lower Buffalo; Rev. Samuel McAdo, Speedwell and Haw River; Rev. John Anderson, without a charge; Rev. Robert Tate, South Washington and Rockfish. *Licentiates*—Messrs. John Rankin, Robert Foster, Andrew Caldwell, and Edward Pharr. *Candidates*—Messrs. Daniel Brown, Ezekiel, Currie, John Mathews, Dunkin Brown, Murdock McMillan, Malcolm McNair, Hugh Shaw, and Murdock Murphey. They have ordained, since their last report, Mr. William McGee; and licensed Mr. Barton Stone, and dismissed them both to connect themselves with the Presbytery of Transylvania. They have also dismissed the Rev. John Robinson. No report of *vacancies* received from this Presbytery.

2. *Presbytery of South Carolina.*—Rev. Joseph Alexander, Bullock's Creek; Rev. John Simpson, Goodhope and Roberts; Rev. James Templeton, Nazareth; Rev. Francis Cummins, Rocky River; Rev. Robert McCullock, Catholic and Purity; Rev. James Stephenson, Indian Town and Williamsburg; Rev. John Brown, Waxhaws; Rev. Robert Wilson, Long Canes; Rev. William Williamson, Fair Forest; Rev. Robert B. Walker, Bethesda, Rev. David E. Dunlap, Columbia; Rev. Samuel W. Young, Lebanon and Wateree; Rev. John Foster, Salem; Rev. James Gilleland, Bradaway; Rev. John B. Kennady, Duncan's Creek and Little River; Rev. George G. McWhorter, Bethel and Beersheba; Rev. Andrew Brown, Bethlehem and Cane Creek; Rev. John B. Davis, Fishing Creek and Richardson. *Licentiates*—Messrs. William Roseborough, John Caurer, George Reed. *Candidates*—Messrs. Hugh Dickson, and Thomas Neely. *Vacancies*—Hopewell, Carmel, Greenville, Rocky Creek, Smyrna, Cuffee Town, Hopewell on Pee Dee, Beaver Creek, Hanging Rock, Mount Olivet, Zion, Aimwell, Concord, Ebenezer, Fish Dam, Grassy Spring, Union, Newton, Millford, No Pacolate, Fairview, Liberty Spring, Calvary, Bethany, and Unity.

3. *Presbytery of Abingdon.*—From this Presbytery no return has been received.

4. *Presbytery of Concord.*—Rev. Samuel E. McCorkle, D. D., Thyatira; Rev. James Hall, Bethany; Rev. James McRee, Centre; Rev. David Barr, Philadelphia; Rev. William Davis, Olney; Rev. Samuel Caldwell, Sugar Creek and Hopewell; Rev. James Wallis, Providence; Rev. Joseph Kirkpatrick, Third Creek and Unity; Rev. Lewis F. Wilson, Concord and Fourth Creek; Rev. Humphrey Hunter, Goshen and Unity; Rev. John M. Wilson, Quaker Meadows and Morgantown; Rev. John Carrigan, Rama and Bethpage; Rev. John Andrews, Little Britain; Rev. Samuel Davis, Mamre; Rev. George Newton, Swananoa and Reins Creek. *Candidate*—Mr. Thomas Hall. *Vacancies*—Steel Creek, Poplar Tent, Rocky River, Smyrna, Knob Creek, Mineral Spring, Chesnut Spring, Mount Pleasant, Mountain Creek, Long Creek.

5. *Presbytery of Hopewell.*—No report received by Synod.

6. *Presbytery of Union.*—Rev. Samuel Carrick, The Fork and Knoxville; Rev. Robert Henderson, Westminster and Hopewell; Rev. Gideon Blackburn, Euribia and New Providence; Rev. Samuel G. Ramsey, Ebenezer and Pleasant Forest. *Vacancies*—Tennessee, Concord, Shuman, Clinch and Tuchalichu. Signed by order,

WILLIAM WILLIAMSON, *Clerk.*

*Hopewell, Nov. 6th,* 1799.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 21*st*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

An overture from the Committee of Overtures, respecting collecting materials for forming a history of the Presbyterian Church in America, was read, and the consideration of it having been postponed, it was ordered to be entered on the docket.

The committee appointed to consider what alteration it may be proper to make in the members of the corporation of the General Assembly, reported, That it would be inexpedient to make any change for the present year. But as a misnomer appears to have been made in the charter of incorporation, (the name Nathan Irvin being inserted instead of Nathaniel Irwin,) they submit the propriety of correcting the same.

The Assembly accepted this report, and directed that the said Nathaniel Irwin be, and he hereby is, chosen and constituted a Trustee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk transmit to the corporation of the General Assembly an attested copy of the above minute.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the subjects contained in the communication of the corporation for managing their funds, and agreed that the following objects deserve consideration, viz:

1. The gospelizing of the Indians on the frontiers of our country, connected with a plan for their civilization, the want of which it is believed has been a great cause of the failure of former attempts to spread Christianity among them. The ideas of the president of the corporation, delivered in his address at their first meeting, would, on this point, deserve a serious attention.

2. The instruction of the negroes, the poor, and those who are destitute of the means of grace, in various parts of this extensive country. Whoever

contemplates the situation of this numerous class of persons in the United States, their gross ignorance of the plainest principles of religion, their immorality and profaneness, their vices and dissoluteness of manners, must be filled with anxiety for their present welfare, and above all, for their future and eternal happiness.

3. The purchasing and disposing of Bibles, and also books and short essays on the great principles of religion and morality, calculated to impress the minds of those to whom they are given with a sense of their duty both to God and man, and consequently of such a nature as to arrest the attention, interest the curiosity, and touch the feelings of those to whom they are given.

4. The provision of a fund for the more complete instruction of candidates for the gospel ministry, previously to their licensure. The want of this having been a subject of general inconvenience, it would deserve consideration, whether it would not be both easy and practicable to appoint a number of professors of theology, (perhaps one in each Synod,) to whom the candidates might resort as a matter of choice, (though not of necessity,) which professors might immediately be provided with a suitable library, the property of the corporation, and who might receive a small salary, to be augmented as their labours increase and the funds are extended. It will be a most desirable extension of this plan, if the funds can be rendered adequate to furnish partly, or wholly, the means of subsistence to the candidates for the ministry, who may need such assistance, during the time of their attendance on the professors.

As to the means and methods by which the funds necessary to the compassing of these objects may be provided, the following ideas are suggested:

1. The continuance of the annual contributions which are now ordered, and which it may be fairly presumed will be abundantly more productive than they now are, when it is known that the objects here specified are in the view of the Assembly. For it has been found by experience, that there is among the people generally, a great readiness and freedom to contribute, and that with liberality, to the promotion of every plan calculated to spread the gospel among those who are deprived of its blessings.

2. The appointment of two or more suitable persons to travel through the country, to solicit and receive donations for the purposes that have been mentioned. The expenses of such persons to be paid them, a small compensation to be allowed them, and if ministers, the supplying of their pulpits during their absence, to be provided for. The prospect of a very considerable augmentation of the funds, if this measure were adopted, appears flattering.

3. The aid that may reasonably be expected from persons of property, piety, and benevolence, contributing by testamentary bequests, and unsolicited donations (after the example of the president of the corporation) to the promotion of such important and interesting objects as those which are here detailed.

4. It is not impossible, nor perhaps improbable, that if experience should demonstrate the practicability and utility of the measures contemplated, the people of the Presbyterian denomination might generally be persuaded to make an annual donation (say of twenty-five cents each) to render them more extensively effective; and this of itself would go very far towards providing a fund adequate to all the expenses contemplated.

In connection with what has already been stated, the following ideas deserve attention:

1. That not the least alteration is wished or contemplated in the plan already in operation for sending missionaries to the frontiers. This plan is

both useful and popular. All that shall be attempted is to be considered as additional to it.

2. That in consistency with this, it may deserve serious consideration whether, for the instruction of the Indians, the black people, and other persons unacquainted with the principles of our holy religion, an order of men under the character of *catechists*, might not be instituted, from among men of piety and good sense, but without a liberal education. Not that these men shall be clothed with clerical functions, but that they confine themselves to the private instruction of those to whom they are sent, together with occasional addresses of a religious kind made to collections of people that may assemble for this purpose, and leading the devotional exercises among them; and this with a view to prepare the way for a few regular and ordained ministers to follow after them, to organize churches and administer ordinances.

These catechists shall be carefully examined by the Presbyteries to whose bounds they most naturally belong, in regard to their qualifications for the work to be assigned them; they shall have a certificate of such examination, and the recommendation of the Presbytery where it has been taken; they shall be directed by the Presbytery where they are to labour; and without a compliance with these directions they shall not be considered as authorized to act in the manner here contemplated.

Ordered, That the foregoing statement be published in the extracts of minutes for the current year, that the judicatures and people at large, under the care of the Assembly, may be acquainted with the views and wishes of their highest judicature. But the Assembly neither judge it expedient themselves to attempt to carry into immediate effect all that is here suggested, nor to urge on their judicatures and people to attempt it. Some things only that are here specified will be entered on by this Assembly; and the judicatures and people will judge for themselves what other objects it may be proper for them voluntarily to regard. Only it is considered expedient by the Assembly that no *catechists* should be sent out, till a farther order on the subject be issued by the General Assembly.

In consequence of a communication from the corporation of the Widows' Fund, the Assembly earnestly recommend it to the Presbyteries, that when they settle ministers in their churches, they endeavour to convince such ministers of the importance of their speedily becoming contributors to the Widows' Fund; whereby they may at once provide for the support of their own families, and assist in supporting an institution so charitable and useful in the church.

The address of the president of the corporation of the General Assembly, delivered to the board, having been read yesterday—on motion,

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this house be given to him for the information contained in the said address.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Rodgers and McWhorter, and Mr. Perkins, be a committee, to wait on the president, to ask his permission to make such extracts for publication from the said address, as they may think proper.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The General Assembly met and constituted with prayer.

Members present as before.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The committee appointed by last Assembly to recommend proper persons to be employed as stated missionaries on the frontiers, informed the Assembly, that the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, pursuant to their application to him, and by appointment of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, had gone out as a missionary in the latter end of October last, and spent about six weeks in the business in the north-western parts of the state of New York; and the committee submitted the propriety of the Assembly hearing his report, and compensating him for his services.

Mr. Chapman read a report of the execution of his mission, which was approved, and it was agreed that he be paid for his services at the same rate as the other missionaries sent out by the General Assembly shall be paid.

The Rev. James G. Force, a missionary of the last General Assembly, read a report, giving an account of his progress and success in the execution of his mission; which report was approved.

The Rev. John Lindsley, another missionary, read a report containing an interesting account of the execution of his mission, and the apparent success of his labours in sundry places. The report was accepted as satisfactory.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*Thursday morning*, 9 *o'clock*.

The Assembly met and constituted with prayer. Members present as before, except Mr. Orme, absent through indisposition.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the missionary business, when it was

*Resolved*, That Dr. McWhorter, Messrs. King, Cathcart, T. Patterson, Wilson, (S. C.) Drs. Scott and Elmer, be a committee, to take into consideration the reports of the missionaries of last year, and to settle their accounts, to arrange the whole missionary business for the current year, and present a plan on this subject to this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

The Assembly being informed that the missionary business, and the funds for the support thereof, which were confided to the Synod of the Carolinas, have failed for some years past, therefore,

*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to that Synod to resume the business with that zeal and diligence which the importance of it demands, and that they report their measures and success to the next General Assembly.

The Rev. James Hall, of the Presbytery of Concord, John Lindsley, of the Presbytery of Albany, Robert H. Chapman, of the Presbytery of New York; William Boyd, Holloway W. Hunt, and Mr. Matthew L. Perine, a licentiate, all of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, were nominated as missionaries for the ensuing year.

Mr. Hutchinson obtained leave of absence the remainder of the sessions.

The committee appointed to report certain modifications of the regulations of 1798, respecting the introduction of foreign ministers and licentiates, reported a draught, which they submitted as a substitute for the said regulations.

The draught was read, and after considering some part thereof by paragraphs,

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The consideration of the draught of the committee appointed to report certain modifications of the regulations of 1798, respecting the introduction of foreign ministers, was resumed and gone through by paragraphs.

On motion, agreed, that the draught be read to-morrow morning, in order to a final decision on the whole.

Dr. Muir obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the sessions, after this day.

The Presbytery of Lewes, by their commissioner, Mr. Slemons, requested leave to ordain a certain Mr. James Lang, a licentiate under their care, *sine titulo.* On motion,

*Resolved*, That the reasons offered for this measure are not sufficient, and therefore that the request be not granted.

The committee appointed to devise and report the most eligible method of insuring a full and speedy distribution of such printed extracts from the minutes of the General Assembly as shall hereafter be made, reported,

"That they are of opinion that this most important purpose may be most effectually, as well as expeditiously accomplished, by transmitting them to distant Presbyteries by post, directed to such members, and to such post-offices in the bounds of the respective Presbyteries belonging to your body, as the members now present shall designate. And that the respective Presbyteries, to which such extracts shall be sent, pay the postage."

Which report being read, was approved, and the members present ordered to regulate themselves accordingly.

The following question, from the commisioners of Hudson Presbytery was brought in through the Committee of Overtures, viz:

"Ought a Methodist minister, applying to one of our Presbyteries and proposing to put himself under their care and to adopt their standards, to be again ordained?"

On motion, It was agreed that a sufficient answer is already given to this question by the Assembly in their sessions of 1792, where they direct a Presbytery, in a similar situation, to proceed as though no ordination had taken place.

Dr. Green, Mr. Hoge, and Mr. Lacy, were appointed a committee to make such extracts from the minutes of the present sessions of the Assembly as shall, in their judgment, merit the attention of our churches in general, to employ a proper person to transcribe said minutes, and to superintend their printing and distribution, and to allow him a reasonable compensation for this service.

An overture was brought in through the Committee of Overtures in the following words:

"Whereas the General Assembly had, for a number of years, taken order that each minister belonging to their body should produce to the Assembly a full and accurate history of his own congregation, and this matter was proceeded in as far as was deemed expedient, and all these materials are now *in retentis*, it is humbly proposed that an attention to this business be revived; and that the Assembly should direct their Presbyteries to take order that every Presbytery should produce to the next General Assembly as complete a history as possible of their own Presbytery, that the Assembly may be furnished with proper materials for the compilation of a history of the Presbyterian Church in this country."

Which overture was agreed to, and the Presbyteries directed to furnish the historical details therein required against the next meeting of the Assembly.

Mr. Wheeler asked leave of absence the remainder of the sessions, which was granted.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Friday morning,* 9 *o'clock.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the committee appointed to superintend the printing and distribution of certain parts of the proceedings of this Assembly, be directed to take the direction of the Trustees of the General Assembly respecting the choice of a printer.

The draught of certain regulations respecting the admission of foreign ministers and licentiates, reported by the committee appointed for that purpose, was again read; and having been fully considered and amended, was adopted by a large majority, and is as follows, viz:

"When any minister or licentiate from Europe shall come into this country, and desire to become connected with the Presbyterian Church in the United States, he may apply to any committee appointed to direct the services of travelling ministers and candidates, which committee shall inspect his credentials, and, by examination or otherwise, endeavour to ascertain his soundness in the faith, and experimental acquaintance with religion; his attainments in divinity and literature; his moral and religious character, and approbation of our public standards of doctrine and discipline. If the result shall be such as to encourage further trial, said committee may give him appointments to supply, and recommend him to the churches, till the next meeting of the Presbytery to which such committee belongs. It shall then become the duty of such minister or licentiate to apply to that Presbytery, or to any other in whose bounds he may incline to labour; provided always, that he make his application to the Presbytery at their first meeting after his coming within their bounds; and also, that immediately on coming within the bounds of any Presbytery, he apply to their committee to judge of his certificate of approbation, and, if they think it expedient, to make him appointments; or, if it shall be more convenient, the application may be made to the Presbytery in the first instance; but it shall be deemed irregular for any foreign minister or licentiate to preach in any vacant church, till he have obtained the approbation of some Presbytery, or committee of Presbytery, in manner aforesaid.

The Presbytery to which such minister or licentiate may apply, shall carefully examine his credentials, and not sustain a mere certificate of good standing, unless corroborated by such private letters, or other collateral testimony, as shall fully satisfy them as to the authenticity and sufficiency of his testimonials. After inspecting any evidences of his literary acquirements which may be laid before them, the Presbytery shall enter into a free conversation with him, in order to discover his soundness in the faith, and experimental acquaintance with religion. If they shall obtain satisfaction on these several articles, they shall proceed to examine him on the learned languages, the arts, sciences, theology, church history, and government; nor shall they receive him unless he shall appear to have made such attainments in these several branches as are required of those who receive their education, or pass their trials, among ourselves. But if, upon the whole, he appears to be a person worthy of encouragement, and who promises usefulness in the church, they shall receive him as a minister or candidate on probation, he first adopting our standards of doctrine and discipline, and promising subjection to the Presbytery in the Lord. During this state of probation he may preach the gospel where regularly called, either as a stated or occasional supply; and if an ordained minister, perform every part of the ministerial functions, except that he may not vote in any judicatory, or accept a call for settlement.

If the foreigner who shall apply to any committee or Presbytery, as aforesaid, be an ordained minister, such committee and Presbytery may, at their discretion, dispense with the special examination on literature in this act prescribed; provided he shall exhibit satisfactory evidence that he has received such education, and made such progress in languages, arts, and sciences, as are required by the constitution of our church, as qualifications for the gospel ministry. But in all other respects, the examination shall be the same as in the case of a licentiate.

If, from prospects of settlement or greater usefulness, a minister or licentiate, under probation in any Presbytery, shall wish to move into the bounds of another, he shall receive a dismission, containing a certificate of his standing and character, from the Presbytery under whose care he shall have been; which certificate shall entitle him to the same standing in the Presbytery into whose bounds he shall come, except that from the time of his coming under the care of this latter Presbytery, a whole year shall elapse before they come to a final judgment respecting his reception.

When any foreign minister or licentiate, received on certificate or pursuant to trials in any Presbytery, shall have resided generally and preached within their bounds and under their direction for at least one year, they shall cause him to preach before them (if they judge it expedient), and taking into consideration as well the evidence derived from their former trials, as that which may arise from his acceptance in the churches, his prudence, gravity, and godly conversation, and from the combined evidence of the whole determine either to receive him, to reject him, or to hold him under further probation. In case of receiving him at that or any subsequent period, the Presbytery shall report the same to their Synod at its next meeting, together with all the certificates and other testimony on which they received him; or if it shall be more convenient, this report may be made to the General Assembly. The said Assembly or Synod (as the case may be) shall then inquire into the proceedings of the Presbytery in the affair; and if they find them to have been irregular or deficient, they shall recommit them to the Presbytery, in order to a more regular and perfect process. But if the proceedings had in the Presbytery, appear to have been conformable to this regulation, they shall carefully examine all the papers laid before them by the Presbytery, or which shall be exhibited by the party concerned, and considering their credibility and sufficiency, come to a final judgment, either to receive him into the Presbyterian body, agreeably to his standing, or to reject him.

In order, however, to facilitate the settlement of foreign ministers, as soon as may consist with the purity and order of the church, it is further ordained, that if the proper Synod, or the General Assembly, are not to meet within three months, after that meeting of a Presbytery at which a foreign minister on probation is expected to be received, the Presbytery may (if they see cause) lay his testimonials before that meeting of the Assembly, or Synod, which shall be held next before said meeting of the Presbytery. If this Assembly or Synod shall approve the testimonials, they shall give the Presbytery such information and direction as the case may require, and remit the same to them for final issue. In all other cases, it shall be deemed irregular for any Synod or General Assembly to receive a foreign minister or licentiate, until he shall have passed his period of probation, and been received and reported by some Presbytery, in manner aforesaid.

No minister or licentiate, after being rejected by one Presbytery, shall be received by another; or if received through mistake, or otherwise, he shall no longer be countenanced or employed after the imposition is discovered. If however, any minister or licentiate shall think himself aggrieved by the sentence of any Presbytery, he shall have a right to carry the matter by complaint to the proper Synod, or to the next General Assembly, giving notice thereof to the Presbytery during the meeting at which the sentence was pronounced, or at the meeting next following.

These regulations and provisions relative to the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates, are to be considered as coming in place of all that have heretofore been established on this subject; and all judicatures and individuals, under the care of the Assembly, are to regard them accordingly."

The following dissent from a decision of the Assembly of the 19th inst., was read, and at the desire of the dissentients entered on the records, viz:

"We, the subscribers, dissent from the decision of the Assembly of the 19th inst., whereby they declare that the regulations made by the Assembly in 1798, respecting the reception of foreign ministers into our churches and judicatories, were constitutional.

JOHN RODGERS, ALEXANDER McWHORTER,
JEDEDIAH CHAPMAN, JAMES MUIR,
GEORGE FAITOUTE, JAMES G. FORCE,
STEPHEN WHEELER, STEPHEN BALDWIN,
JOHN MILLS."

The committee on the missionary business made a report, which after some consideration was recommitted.

Ordered, That John B. Patterson and James G. Force be a committee to prepare commissions for the missionaries of the current year, and bring them in as soon as may be convenient, for the signature of the Moderator and Clerk.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Messrs. Freeman, Lindsley, and Anderson, be a committee to make an abstract from the reports of the missionaries of the last year, and lay the same before the Assembly; which, if approved, may be published for the information of the churches.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a committee to meet at Stamford, in Connecticut, on the second Tuesday of June next, at 3 o'clock, P. M., and join with a committee of the General Association of Connecticut in examining certain alterations and additions to Dr. Watts's version of the Psalms made by the Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight: whereupon, the Rev. Drs. John Rodgers and Jonathan Edwards, the Rev. Messrs. Asa Hillyer and Jonathan Freeman, were elected a committee for the purpose aforesaid, and the said committee of this Assembly were, and they hereby are, directed to pay all due attention to the subject committed to them, in conjunction with their brethren, and report the result to the next General Assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Edwards, the Rev. Messrs. Asa Hillyer and Jonathan Freeman, were appointed delegates from this Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet at the house of the Rev. Mr. Robins, at Norwalk, on the third Tuesday of June next. Certificates of their appointment were ordered to be made out, signed by the Moderator and attested by the Stated Clerk.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

Mr. Robert Logan, a missionary for last year, appeared and read a report of the execution of his mission, which report was approved by the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the pastors of all congregations under the care of the Assembly be, and they are hereby directed, to read to their people, in their assemblies for public worship, such extracts from the minutes of this year, as those pastors shall judge calculated to promote the interests of religion, and favour the objects recommended to general attention by the Assembly. And that the same thing be done in vacant congregations, under the direction of their several sessions.

A communication was made to the Assembly by the Associate Reformed Synod, whereby it appeared that said Synod have not agreed to the plan for friendly intercourse between that Synod, the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and the General Assembly of this Church, agreed upon, in a Convention of Committees from these bodies severally, in June, 1798.*

---

**Report from the Associate Reformed Synod.*

The committee appointed at the last meeting of Synod to confer with committees from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and from the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, on the subject of reviewing and extending the friendly correspondence between the three churches, being required to give in their report, Mr. Mason informed the Synod, that he and his elder had attended the Convention of the aforesaid Committees, the other members being providentially hindered, and laid on the table an authenticated copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the Convention.

Ordered, That they be read, which being done, the Synod entered on the consideration of the plan of correspondence and intercourse preferred by the Convention,

After discussion thereof by paragraphs, the vote was taken upon each separately, when some parts were adopted and others rejected. Whereupon, on motion,

*Resolved*, That this Synod, ever inclined to listen with respect to propositions from their brethren of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and of the Reformed Dutch Church, took under their serious deliberation the Plan of Correspondence and Intercourse preferred by the Convention of Delegates from the three Churches, held at New York, on the 19th and 20th days of June last, and having maturely and candidly examined the same, are of unanimous judgment, that under existing circumstances the ratification thereof would be highly inexpedient, and destructive of edification; that they nevertheless adopt, and will co-operate with the conferring churches to carry into effect the following particulars of that plan, viz:

"Persons under censure or process of censure in any particular church concerned in this agreement, shall not be received to occasional or stated communion in any other church so concerned while such censure remains, or such process is unfinished. But on the other hand, when any member in one of said churches desires to connect himself with another, he shall not be refused a certificate of his good standing, when such standing is really good; nor shall it be esteemed disorderly or unkind for the church to which he may present said certificate to receive him.

"It is further recommended, that the churches conferring, mutually watch over each other's purity in doctrine, discipline, and manners, and be ready to receive complaints against any of their ministers or members upon these subjects; which complaints may be preferred and prosecuted either by individuals in their own name, *cum periculo*, or by a judicatory which shall communicate the necessary information to the judicatory to which the offender is subject, in which latter case it shall be taken up as a *fama clamosa*, and prosecuted by said judicatory, and the whole proceedings thereon shall be transmitted to the informing body for their satisfaction."

The Synod, however, explicitly assure the other conferring churches, that their refusal to accede to the remaining parts of the aforesaid plan would be injuriously construed, if considered as an indication of indifference or disrespect for these churches, for which they entertain and desire to express an affectionate regard: and that they will at all times rejoice to concur with them in promoting the interests of the common salvation, and the honour of the common Redeemer.

Extracted from the minutes of the Associate Reformed Synod, met at Greencastle, May 30th, 1799. EBENEZER DICKEY, *Clerk, pro tem.*

The following response was subsequently received from the Dutch Reformed Church, but is here inserted as most properly presenting the full history of the transaction.

*Resolutions of the General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, held in the city of Albany, on the third and following days of June*, 1800.

1. *Resolved*, That the General Synod entertain an affectionate regard and sincere esteem for the conferring churches, and have manifested these sentiments in the most unequivocal manner, in proposing a friendly correspondence, and maintaining the same, until the withholding of corresponding delegates rendered it no longer practicable.

2. *Resolved,* That the correspondence organized in the year of our Lord 1785, contem-

Letters to this Assembly from Wysox, Braintrim, Wyalusing, Newton, Middletown, and Charleston congregations, on the Northwestern frontiers, were read, expressing their gratitude to the General Assembly for the attention paid to their best interests, in sending missionaries among them from year to year.

On motion, said letters were referred to the Committee on Missions for their information and direction.

Ordered, That the delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, and the members of the committee to meet at Stamford, receive each two dollars for every forty miles they shall necessarily travel, in going to and returning from the places of their destination, and the same sum for each day they shall attend the service to which they are respectively appointed.

Ordered, That Rev. Amzi Armstrong, of the Presbytery of New York, supply the pulpit of Mr. Hillyer the third Sabbath of June; and that Mr. Force give to Mr. Armstrong information of this appointment.

On motion, Ordered, That in all cases where the General Assembly has ascertained, or shall ascertain, the rate of compensation for services or business done, or to be done, by any persons employed by them, the Treasurer of the Corporation shall be authorized to pay the same, on a fair account of such service or business done being first presented to the Stated Clerk of the

---

plated nothing more than a meeting of representatives from the respective churches, for the sole purpose of fraternal consultation, communicating and receiving mutual advice in matters of discipline, and strengthening and encouraging each other to abide faithful in the doctrines of grace. The General Synod judged a correspondence instituted upon these principles would combine the efforts of sister churches in resisting the prevalence of infidelity and error, and maintain the bond of charity and communion without disturbing the internal peace of the respective churches, or introducing innovations.

3. *Resolved*, That the General Synod have persevered in the same sentiment, and notwithstanding the disagreeable interruption of the correspondence, have continued willing to revive and confirm the same upon the principles first adopted, as appears by their repeated resolutions upon this subject in the years 1794 and 1797.

4. *Resolved*, That as nothing more than a revival of the former correspondence with both the conferring Churches was intended, and as any farther intercourse than was first agreed upon with either of them, would be highly inexpedient, and in the circumstances of this Church wholly inadmissible, therefore the General Synod finds it necessary to decline ratifying the plan, which embraces objects not anticipated by the Dutch Church, which is not a revival of the former correspondence, but a new and different system of intercourse, and which if carried into effect would not be for edification.

5. *Resolved*, That the Dutch Reformed churches will cheerfully co-operate with the other conferring churches in mutually watching over purity in doctrine, discipline, and manners, and as far as possible promote and enforce the same; will give no countenance to fugitives from censure; and will always honour the certificates of church membership from both the conferring churches; agreeably to a similar determination expressed by the Associate Reformed Synod, with whose decision upon the subject this Synod cordially concur.

6. *Resolved*, That the General Synod expect a charitable construction will be put upon this present decision, and that it will be clearly understood, that they refuse a ratification from a conviction that it would disturb the peace of their churches, many of which have already expressed great uneasiness, and given positive instructions against adopting the proposed plan. And that it would not tend so effectually to maintain order, preserve the doctrines of grace in their purity, or promote fraternal tranquillity and good neighbourhood, as are under the present state of things now attainable. The General Synod freely leave without offence, the respective conferring churches to judge what is proper and expedient, each for themselves; they feel grateful to those who have testified a willingness to hold a more intimate intercourse, and will always rejoice in the prosperity of brethren, and the enlargement of churches, upon whom they pray the blessings of the Lord may rest.

7. *Resolved*, Lastly, That an authenticated copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the respective judicatories of the conferring churches.

I do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the resolutions of Synod, relative to the proposed plan of brotherly correspondence. Ira Condict, *P. S.*

General Assembly, and allowed by him, and then exhibited to said Treasurer for payment.

And it is also recommended to the Treasurer of the Corporation, as soon as may be after the rising of the Assembly, to review their minutes, and to take therefrom an account of all the appropriations of money that they may have make.

Ordered, That the sum of eighty dollars be allowed to the Stated Clerk, as a compensation for his services for the past and present year.

Messrs. John Mills, Stephen Baldwin, John Bayard, Moses Scott, and John Watson, obtained leave of absence the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Saturday morning, 9 o'clock.*

The General Assembly met according to adjournment, and constituted with prayer. Members present as before, except the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Martin and John Johnson, who were absent without leave.

Ordered, To read the minutes of the last session.

The Rev. Robert Logan produced his commissions from the Presbytery of Lexington as a commissioner to this General Assembly, which being read and approved, he took his seat accordingly.

Mr. Edward Cooke asked leave of absence the remainder of the sessions, which was granted.

A motion was made and seconded, that the Assembly adopt the following resolutions, viz:

" Whereas, Every constitution which is the work of fallible men, is necessarily imperfect, and ought to contain provision for its amendment; and whereas, the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in these States is generally understood to contain such provision in the sixth section of the eleventh chapter; but this provision is defective, as it allows the General Assembly only to originate amendments, when the Presbyteries ought to possess the same privilege; it is impracticable, as it requires the proposed amendments to be sent to all the Presbyteries, and of course *proof* that they have been so sent and received, before the amendments can be ratified—things hardly possible in a church so extensive as ours; above all, the meaning of this section shall be expounded by those to whom it of right pertains—Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries be requested to authorize the General Assembly to alter the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of the Constitution, so that the same may read thus:—" Amendments to this Constitution may be made by the concurrence of the General Assembly and a majority of the Presbyteries, the communications expressive of this concurrence being reciprocally made in writing."

*Resolved*, That if a majority of the Presbyteries, after consulting with the people, shall send to the General Assembly their opinion in writing, approving of the amendment now proposed, the same shall be ratified; and the proposed section substituted in the place of the said section in the present constitution.

And whereas, the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, at their sessions in the year 1788, after adopting the constitution, made and recorded a resolution on the subject, which is conceived by some to be at variance with the constitution, and by others to be of equal authority with the constitution itself, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries instruct their commissioners to the next General Assembly on this subject, and authorize them to annul the said resolution, or to reconcile it with the constitution.

After some discussion, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That it would be improper in the conclusion of the sessions to determine on an affair of such magnitude as the present appears to be; and that, therefore, it be recommended to the attention of the next General Assembly.

A farther communication from the Presbytery of Charleston was made to the Assembly by the Stated Clerk. On motion,

Ordered, That the papers containing said communication be referred to the Synod of the Carolinas, to be by them considered, with others of a similar nature heretofore referred.

The Rev. David Wiley obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

*Resolved*, That Doctor Rodgers and the Moderator be a committee to define the duty and compensation of the person to be employed by the General Assembly as a resident missionary, and to report to this Assembly as soon as convenient.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Green, Dr. Tennent, the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Clark, William Hill, Robert Cathcart, and Mr. Woodhull, of Newton, or in case of his failure, Mr. George Faitoute, be appointed to solicit donations in behalf of the Trustees of the General Assembly during the ensuing year, and that their expenses be paid by the Trustees, and their compensation be made out of the moneys to be by them collected; that each of the Presbyteries to which the said persons belong, take order to supply their pulpits in their absence; that the members of this Assembly generally, and all the clergy of our denomination within our bounds, do aid the exertions of those who shall go on this business; that these orders, however, be not considered as extending to the Synod of the Carolinas, nor to the commission of the Synod of Virginia west of the Allegheny mountains, but that the brethren comprehended in this exception be, and they are hereby directed, to bring those objects distinctly before the judicatures and individual ministers under their care, and take such measures to advance the purposes specified as to themselves shall appear best, and to make an accurate report to the next General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries of Albany and Hudson take measures for appointing agents within their bounds respectively, for the purpose of taking subscriptions, and receiving money for the funds of the General Assembly.

The draught of a subscription to be proposed to the people of the different congregations within our bounds, for the purpose of increasing the funds of the General Assembly, was brought in and read, and is as follows, viz:

"Whereas, The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church have it in contemplation to attempt, more extensively than has heretofore been done, the Christianizing of the Indians, the instruction of the black people, and the propagation of Christian knowledge generally, among those who are uninstructed in its principles, by the distribution among them of Bibles, religious books, and by other means; and whereas the said General Assembly have been for some years past, and now are, making exertions to send missionaries to preach the gospel on the frontiers of the country, which exertions have been crowned with much success,—we whose names are underwritten do hereby engage and promise to pay, to the incorporated Trustees of said Assembly, or to their order, the sums annexed to our names respectively, to enable said Assembly and Trustees to promote the objects above recited; and our meaning and intention is, that where we do not specify the particular object to which our subscriptions shall severally be applied, these subscriptions are to be disposed of at the discretion of the General Assembly, or their Trustees." Which being approved,

Ordered, That five hundred copies be printed, and that they be committed to the agents appointed to solicit donations, to be by them dispersed as they may judge necessary.

Mr. Perkins obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Monday morning, May 26th, 9 o'clock.*

The Assembly met, and constituted with prayer.

Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to arrange the missionary business, made a report, which was approved and adopted, and is as follows, viz:

" That they recommend Mr. Robert Logan, a missionary of last year, to be again appointed, to itinerate for three months or more, taking the same route and stopping at the same places as he did the last summer, proceeding as far as the Cayuga Lake, Onondago county. As the Assembly have received from several congregations in that tract, communications by letters, giving the most agreeable account of Mr. Logan's usefulness, describing the blessed effects of a preached gospel in that quarter, and earnestly soliciting a continuance of the attention of the Assembly, offering to pay a considerable share of the expenses attending such a mission, it is thought advisable that Mr. Logan should set out about the first of September.

The committee advise that the Rev. Jonathan Freeman be appointed a missionary for four months, to set out on the first day of July, and to take the route prescribed to Mr. Logan last year, beginning at Tioga Point, or where he may think it most useful.

Your committee recommend the appointment of the Rev. Robert H. Chapman a missionary for two months, to commence as soon as possible; and that his route begin at the hither part of the Beech Woods, and to be continued on to Newtown, at which place he is not to spend more than two weeks, until he return by the same route.

Your committee also recommend the appointment of Mr. John Lindsley on a mission of four months, to commence the first of June next, at Delhi, on the Delaware, thence to the Cook-house, Acquaga, Chenango, Owego, Ovid, Romulus, and Hector; and that he return by the same route, as far as he may find it convenient.

Also the appointment of the Rev. William Boyd, of New Brunswick Presbytery, for two months of the ensuing summer, viz: June and July; and that he should accompany Mr. Lindsley as far as is thought expedient.

Also Mr. Matthew L. Perine, a licentiate under the care of the New Brunswick Presbytery. His mission to continue for four months, beginning in June or July, at Wilkesbarre, thence to Lackawana, Blackwalnut-Bottom, Wyalusing, Wysox, Sheshequin, The Painted-Post, Lindsley-Town, Bath, and thence through the Genessee country, to the military lands, to Fort Stanwick, and Fort Schuyler; then return down the Unadilla through the Beech-Woods.

Your committee further recommend, that the Rev. James Hall, of the Presbytery of Concord, in the Synod of the Carolinas, be appointed a missionary to the Natchez for several months, to commence about the first of October next. For the support of this missionary, it is expected the Synod of the Carolinas will make some provision; and also take measures for supplying his pulpit in his absence.

From the account given to us from the commission of the Synod of Virginia west of the mountains, your committee recommend that they be allowed to appoint one or more catechists to labour among the Indians, if it is thought expedient

They also recommend, that the missionaries, in preparing their reports for the Assembly, be enjoined to abridge from their larger journals a short and succinct account of such matters as have hitherto been required of them, and to read this only to the Assembly, unless the other is called for.

Your committee also advise, that Doctors Rodgers and McWhorter be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Jedediah Chapman, during two months of his mission; and for Mr. Boyd's, that Mr. Clark and Dr. Smith be the committee.

Moreover, that each missionary be allowed one month's pay in advance.

The committee advise that the compensation allowed to the missionaries, during the present year, be 33⅓ dollars per month, they accounting to the General Assembly for all moneys which they may receive.

And whereas, copies of the Confession of Faith, directed to be forwarded to our western frontiers by the last General Assembly, were not sent, by reason of the death of Mr. John McCulloch, to whom they were intrusted, your committee recommend that the order of last year be renewed, and that the Treasurer of the corporation be directed to forward them accordingly.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Dr.* | *The General Assembly, to the Rev. Robert Logan*— | |
| | To 5 months' missionary service, from June to November, 1799, at $40 per month, - - - - - - - - - - | $200 00 |
| *Cr.* | For cash advanced to him, $30. For contributions received by him, $23 50 | 53 50 |
| | Remains due to Mr. Logan, - - - - - | $146 50 |
| | Also for the time he travelled to and from the place of his services, - | 40 00 |
| | | $186 50 |
| *Dr.* | *The General Assembly, to the Rev. James G. Force*— | |
| | For 4 months' missionary service, from August to December, 1799, at $40 per month, - . . - - - - - - - - - | $160 00 |
| *Cr.* | For cash advanced him, $30. For contributions received by him, $12 04 | 42 04 |
| | Remains due to Mr. Force, - - - - - | $117 96 |
| *Dr.* | *The General Assembly, to the Rev. John Lindsley*— | |
| | For 5 month's missionary service, from August to December, 1799, at $40 per month, - - - - - - - - - - - - | $200 00 |
| *Cr.* | For cash advanced to him, $30. For contributions received by him, $32 19 | 62 19 |
| | Remains due to Mr. Lindsley, - - - - - | $137 81 |
| *Dr.* | *The General Assembly, to the Rev. Jedediah Chapman*— | |
| | For one and a half month's missionary service, in the months of . . . . . at $40 per month, - - - - - - - | $60 00 |

The Rev. David Barkley's account not having been yet exhibited, the committee can make no report thereon, but are of opinion there is only a small balance due to him. Two months is considered the time."

Ordered, That the Treasurer of the Corporation pay the above balances.

The committee appointed to draught instructions for a stated missionary on the north-western frontiers reported—"That in the opinion of your committee the stated missionary be employed six months in each year, for four years, in the service of the Assembly; unless it shall hereafter appear proper, and shall be mutually agreeable to the Assembly and the stated missionary, that the time be shorter, and that he be allowed by the Assembly three hundred and twenty-five dollars per year, for such service. That he make a tour annually through the frontier settlements, preaching the word, administering sacraments, ordaining elders and deacons, and adjusting as far as conveniently may be done, all such concerns as tend to prepare the way for the regular settlement of the gospel ministry in those parts. That for aiding the annual missionaries sent by the Assembly, he arrange the routes and fix on the places of preaching in such orderly way, that the missionaries, when on their tours, may employ their time to the greatest advantage; and the settlements know, with greater certainty, when and where they are to attend to the ministrations of the missionaries. That he make a report annually to the Assembly of the manner in which he hath fulfilled the objects of his appointment; also of the whole state of the frontier country, with regard to the number of organized churches, distinguishing between such as are able and willing to support a minister in a single or united capacity, and such as are not able; of the prospects of farther organizing churches, the general disposition of the frontier inhabitants to receive the word and encourage the labours of the missionaries, and of the general state of religion throughout the frontiers; and that he account to the Assembly for all such moneys as he shall receive as missionary of the Assembly. That he be a common medium of information to receive such applications for aid and counsel from the General Assembly as may be made by the frontier settlements, or the Indian tribes, and transmit the same to the General Assembly; and also to communicate to the settlements and to the Indian tribes such information as the Assembly may wish to communicate."

On motion, *Resolved*, That the above report be accepted, and that the Rev. Jedediah Chapman be employed as the stated missionary of the Assembly to the frontiers. That he set out for that country as soon as convenient, and take up his residence there in some one place, the most suitable for accomplishing the views of the Assembly.

The above report was read to Mr. Chapman, and he declared his acceptance of the appointment on the conditions stated in the report.

The committee appointed to prepare a report on the narrative of the missionaries, beg leave to report—"That the missionaries proceeded on the respective tours prescribed by the last General Assembly, and agreeably to their instructions. It appears from their journals, that your missionaries have been very diligent and laborious in discharging their duty. They have preached the gospel in season and out of season, and frequently to two, three, and four hundred people. They have visited many families, baptized a great number of children and some adults, and several times administered the Lord's Supper. The success of the missionary labours is greatly on the increase. God is shaking the valley of dry bones on the frontiers, a spiritual resurrection is there taking place. There is a serious and solemn attention to the great realities of religion, in many and in different parts of that country. Some hundreds of people have, in a short space of time, been received into the communion of the church, and among these several who were avowed infidels and universalists. These joyful accounts are corroborated by a number of letters from the frontier settlements, in which the inhabitants express the most unfeigned gratitude to the Assembly for sending them missionaries, and ardently pray the continuance of missionaries among them. These accounts from the frontiers your committee are persuaded will excite the love, animate the zeal, and induce all pious Christians among us, who have been in the habit of contributing towards the support of the gospel in our frontier settlements, to continue their contributions. Only ten years have elapsed since the first missionaries were sent out by this Assembly. Since that period some thousands of families have settled on the frontier, who are rapidly forming in societies, in order to have the gospel preached and its ordinances statedly administered among them. Now is the time they need assistance. Their eyes are turned, and their applications addressed to this Assembly, as an instrument in the hands of the divine Redeemer to afford them the necessary assistance.

Your committee conclude by observing, that in their opinion, the above account should be sent down to the churches in your printed extracts, as a sufficient argument to prevail with them to raise collections, to enable the Assembly to pursue and extend the great and glorious work they have begun and carried on with such abundant success."

Ordered, That fifty copies of the subscription paper printed by the direction of this Assembly, be delivered to each of the agents of the Assembly who are now present, and that the same number be transmitted to the other agents, to be disposed of at their discretion; and that if any agent need an additional number of copies, he shall be supplied with them on application to the Stated Clerk.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the committee appointed to superintend the printing and publishing the extracts from the minutes of this Assembly, be directed to have fifteen hundred copies struck off, and forwarded in due proportions to the respective Presbyteries; and that the Treasurer of the corporation be requested to forward two hundred copies to the frontiers, to be lodged in such places as the Rev. Jedediah Chapman shall direct.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday in May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Whereupon, the Moderator dissolved the Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution, and concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1800.

### SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany, | 10 | 3 | | 8 |
| Hudson, | 6 | 3 | | 10 |
| New York, | 16 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Long Island, | 11 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| New Brunswick, | 14 | 3 | 4 | 10 |
| SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA. | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 16 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Lewes, | 4 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Baltimore, | 7 | 1 | | |
| Carlisle, | 13 | 5 | 3 | 12 |
| New Castle. No report. | | | | |
| Huntingdon, | 8 | 6 | | 19 |
| SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS. | | | | |
| Orange, | 13 | 1 | 4 | |
| South Carolina, | 18 | | 3 | 24 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | |
| Concord, | 15 | | | 10 |
| Hopewell. No report. | | | | |
| Union, | 4 | | | 4 |
| SYNOD OF VIRGINIA. | | | | |
| No report. | | | | |
| Total, | 155 | 28 | 18 | 114 |

DEATHS.—In the Presbytery of Baltimore, the Rev. James Wilson died, date not given, in the Presbytery of Carlisle, the Rev. John Craighead died April 20th, 1799; in the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. Peter Wilson died July 24th, 1799.

## 1801.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 21*st*, 1801.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Joseph Clark, the Moderator of last year, from Matt. xxviii. 18, 19, 20: "And Jesus came, and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

After prayer, the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following persons were duly appointed commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

1. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Jonathan Edwards, and Peter Fish. *Elder*—Mr. Isaac Hutton.
2. PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Nathan Kerr, and Jonathan Freeman. *Elder*—Dr. Jonathan Sweezy.
3. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. David S. Bogart, and Herman Dagget.
4. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Doctor John McKnight, Samuel Miller, Asa Hillyer, and Amzi Armstrong. *Elders*—Messrs. Preserve Riggs, Ephraim Sayre, Benjamin Egbert, and John Bingham.
5. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. John Woodhull, Joseph Clark, William Boyd, and Joseph Rue. *Elders*—Messrs. John Bayard, Thomas Henderson, David Bishop, and John Muirhead.
6. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, James Boyd, Dr. Ashbel Green, and William Latta. *Elders*—Messrs. Hugh Henry, Ebenezer Hazard, David Cloyd, and Joseph Brewster.
7. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. John E. Latta, John Collins, and William Arthur. *Elders*—Messrs. Ebenezer Rothwell, and George McIlvain.
8. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Robert Cathcart, Nathaniel R. Snowden, John Linn, and Dr. Robert Cooper. *Elder*—Mr. Robert Gilmore.
9. PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—The Rev. John B. Slemons. *Elder*—Mr. John Moore.
10. PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. Dr. Patrick Alison. *Elder*—Mr. Andrew Johnson.
11. PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. John B. Patterson.
12. PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. Nash Le Grand.
13. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. Joseph Henderson.
14. PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. John McMillan, John Brice, John Watson, and William Wood.
15. PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—The Rev. Robert Logan.
16. PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. Archibald Alexander.
17. PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—The Rev. James White Stevenson.

The Rev. Samuel Blatchford, pastor of the church of Stratfield, in the state of Connecticut, exhibited a certificate of his appointment as a delegate from the General Association of Connecticut to this Assembly, which being read and approved, he took his seat accordingly.

The Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator and Clerks, when the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Messrs. Robert Cathcart and Samuel Miller were chosen Clerks.

The Rev. Drs. McKnight, Edwards, and Cooper, and the Rev. Messrs. Linn, Bogart, Freeman, Patterson, Le Grand, and McMillan, and Messrs.

Bayard, Hazard, Bingham, Moore, Jameson, and McIlvain, elders, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

The Assembly proceeded to read the minutes of the last year, and after some progress therein,

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and constituted with prayer.

Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. John Black, of the Presbytery of Redstone, produced his commission as a delegate to the Assembly from said Presbytery, which being read, was approved, and he took his seat accordingly.

The reading of the minutes of the last Assembly was resumed and finished.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures brought in a report, which was read.

Ordered, That the several articles in said report, recommended to the attention of the Assembly, be placed on the docket.

A communication was read from the General Association of the state of Connecticut, appointing a committee to confer with a committee of the Presbyterian Church, to consider the measures proper to be adopted by the General Association and the General Assembly, for establishing an uniform system of church government, between the inhabitants of the new settlements, who are attached to the Presbyterian form of government, and those who prefer the Congregational form.

Ordered, That said communication lie on the table.*

A letter was read from the Rev. Ira Condict, President, and the Rev. Isaac Labagh and Wilhelmus Ettinge, Clerks of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, enclosing an extract from the proceedings of that body, respecting the plan of intercourse and correspondence between the General Assembly, the Associate Reformed Synod, and the said General Synod of the Dutch Church; in which said Synod express a resolution not to concur in the above mentioned plan.†

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Assembly will proceed on Wednesday morning next, to enter into a full and free conversation on the state of religion within their bounds.

The Rev. Dr. Green, Mr. McMillan, and Dr. Henderson, were appointed a committee to devise and suggest an effectual method for selecting, printing, and distributing extracts from the minutes of this Assembly.

---

* *Report of the Committee on Friendly Intercourse of Missionaries.*

The Rev. John Smalley, Levi Hart, and Samuel Blatchford, are hereby appointed a committee of this General Association to confer with a committee to be appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, if they see cause to appoint such committee, to consider the measures proper to be adopted both by this Association and the said Assembly, to prevent alienation, to promote harmony, and to establish, as far as possible, an uniform system of Church Government, between those inhabitants of the new settlements who are attached to the Presbyterian form of church government and those who are attached to the Congregational form, and to make report to this Association. Any two of the said committee are hereby empowered to act.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing proposals be transmitted to the said General Assembly, and that they be respectfully requested by the Moderator of this General Association to concur in the measure now proposed.

By order of the committee, NATHAN WILLIAMS, *Chairman.*

A true copy.—Attest, WM. LYMAN, *Ass't Scribe.*

† See note, page 203.

A complaint and appeal of the Rev. Thomas Ledlie Birch, against certain proceedings of the Presbytery of Ohio, in the case of Mr. Birch, particularly for refusing to receive him as a member of their body, on the ground of a supposed want of acquaintance with experimental religion, together with a representation of the congregation of Washington, in the bounds of said Presbytery, on the same subject, was brought in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly will proceed, on Monday morning next, to hear said complaint and appeal.

The Rev. Drs. Cooper, and Alison, and Mr. Hazard, were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

The Rev. Drs. Edwards, and McKnight, and Mr. Hutton, were appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia. The said committees to report as soon as convenient.

The records of the Synod of Virginia and the Carolinas were not produced.

The Assembly proceeded to receive the Synodical reports, when

The Synod of New York and New Jersey reported, that they consist of five Presbyteries, viz:

1. The Presbytery of Albany, consisting of seventeen ministers, of whom eleven have charges, one is President of Union College, and five have not charges. That they have no candidates under their care. That they have ten vacancies under their care, each able to support a minister, and seven that are not able; as appears by report No. 1.

2. The Presbytery of Long Island, consisting of fifteen ministers, of whom twelve have charges, and three have not charges. That they have four vacancies in a united capacity able to support two ministers; as appears by report No. 2.

3. The Presbytery of New Brunswick, consisting of nineteen ministers, of whom sixteen have charges, one is President of New Jersey College, one is on a mission to the north-western frontier, and one has no charge. That the Rev. Walter Monteith departed this life, at Albany, on the 9th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1799. That they have seven vacant congregations which, in a united capacity, are able to support three ministers, and one vacant congregation not able to support a minister. That they have two licentiates under their care; as appears by report No. 3.

4. The Presbytery of New York, consisting of nineteen ministers, of whom fifteen have charges, three have no charges, and one has accepted a call from Geneva, in conformity to the arrangements of the General Assembly. That they have three vacancies, able to support, each, a minister, and one not able. That they have received the Rev. John Giles, from England, May 6th, 1800; and the Rev. Samuel Smith, from the Classis of Albany, August 13th, 1800. That they have installed the Rev. John Giles, at Elizabethtown, June 24th, 1800; and the Rev. Samuel Smith at Connecticut Farms, October 7th, 1800. That they have dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, and the congregation of Orange Dale, August 13th, 1800; the pastoral relation between the Rev. John Giles, and the congregation at Elizabeth, October 7th, 1800; and the pastoral relation between the Rev. John T. Carl, and the congregation of Rockaway, October 8th, 1800. That they have dismissed the Rev. John Giles, October 7th, 1800, to join the Eastern Association of Fairfield county, in the state of Connecticut. That they have received Mr. Stephen Hait, a licentiate from the Presbytery of Long Island, April 17th, 1799. That they have licensed Mr.

Henry Kollock, May 7th, 1800, and Mr. Stephen Ogden Thompson, and Mr. Washington McKnight, October 9th, 1800, as appears by report No. 4.

5. The Presbytery of Hudson, consisting of nine ministers, of whom five have charges, and four have not charges. That they have five vacancies, each able to support a minister, two in a united capacity able to support a minister, and four unable to support a minister. That they have one candidate under trials; as appears by report No. 5.

The Synod of Philadelphia report to the General Assembly to meet at Philadelphia, the 21st day of May, 1801, that the said Synod consists of five Presbyteries, viz:

The Presbytery of Philadelphia, consisting of nineteen ministers, of whom only seventeen have pastoral charges, viz: The Rev. Dr. John Ewing, co-pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Samuel Blair, without pastoral charge; Rev. William M. Tennent, pastor of Abington, Norriton, and Providence; Rev. Ashbel Green, co-pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. James Boyd, pastor of Newtown, and Bensalem; Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Neshaminy; Rev. John Davenport, Deerfield; Rev. Ethan Osborn, Fairfield; Rev. Abijah Davis, without pastoral charge; Rev. William Clarkson, pastor of Bridgeton and Greenwich; Rev. Philip Milledoler, Third Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Robert Russel, Allens Township; Rev. Uriah Dubois, Deep Run and Tinicum; Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, co-pastor Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. John B. Linn, co-pastor First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. William Latta, pastor of Great Valley and Charlestown; Rev. Thomas Picton, Woodbury and Timber Creek; Rev. George Potts, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. *Vacancies.*—Cape May, able to support a minister; Penns Neck and Alloways Creek, not able.

The Presbytery of New Castle, consisting of fifteen ministers, of whom thirteen only have pastoral charges, viz: The Rev. Dr. Thomas Read, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. William McKennan, Red Clay Creek; Rev. Colin McFarquhar, Donnegal; Rev. Alexander Mitchell, Doe Run; Rev. Nathaniel W. Sample, Lancaster, Leacock, and Middle Octorara; Rev. Nathan Grier, Forks of Brandywine: Rev. William Arthur, Pequea; Rev. John Collins, St. George's; Rev. George Luckey, Centre, and Bethel; Rev. Samuel Martin, Slateridge, and Chanceford; Rev. Samuel Leacock, without pastoral charge; Rev. William Chealy, pastor of Pencader and Middleton; Rev. Francis Hindman, without pastoral charge; Rev. Francis A. Latta, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. John E. Latta, New Castle and Christiana Bridge. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Elliot, Robert Kennedy, Joshua Knight, Charles Wallace, Thomas Grier, and Joseph Douglass. *Vacancies.*—Little Britain, Lower Brandywine, West Chester, Chatham, Chesnut Level, Deer Creek, Fagg's Manor, Middleton, (Pennsylvania,) West Nottingham, New London, Head of Christiana, Upper Octorara, White Clay Creek, Rock Church, and Queen Ann's.

The Presbytery of Lewes, consisting of five ministers, of whom only three have pastoral charges, viz: The Rev. Samuel McMasters, pastor of Snow Hill, Pitts Creek and Rehoboth; Rev. John Burton, Lewes Town; Rev. John Johnson, and Rev. William McKee, without pastoral charges; and Rev. John B. Slemons, pastor of Monokin and Wicomico. *Vacancies.*—Queen Ann's, John's Town, Dover, Blackwater, and Broad Creek; none of which is able to support a minister.

The Presbytery of Baltimore, consisting of seven ministers, of whom six have pastoral charges, viz: The Rev. Dr. Patrick Alison, pastor of the Church of Baltimore; Rev. James Muir, Alexandria; Rev. Stephen B. Balch, Georgetown; Rev. John Brackenridge, Washington; Rev. Samuel Knox, Frederick

Town; Rev. Enoch Matson, Bermuda; and William Maffit, without pastoral charge. With three *vacancies*, one of which is able to support a pastor.

The Presbytery of Carlisle, consisting of twenty ministers, of whom fourteen have pastoral charges, viz: The Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit, President of Dickinson College; Rev. Robert Cooper, without a pastoral charge; Rev. John King, Upper West Connegocheague; Rev. Robert Davidson, Carlisle; Rev. John Slemons, without a pastoral charge; Rev. James Lang, without a pastoral charge; Rev. Thomas McPherrin, without a pastoral charge; Rev. Daniel Jones, without a pastoral charge; Rev. John Linn, Sherman's Valley; Rev. Samuel Waugh, East Pennsborough and Monaghan; Rev. James Snodgrass, Hanover; Rev. William Paxton, Lower Marsh Creek; Rev. Robert Cathcart, York and Hopewell; Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, Harrisburgh; Rev. David Denny, Chambersburgh; Rev. John Boyd, without a pastoral charge; Rev. Patrick Davidson, Tom's Creek; Rev. Joshua Williams, Paxton and Derry; Rev. Francis Herron, Rocky Spring; and Rev. David McConnaughy, Upper Marsh Creek and Great Connewago. Three *licentiates*, namely, Messrs. James McLean, Matthew Brown, and James Graham; and twelve *vacancies*, of which four are able, severally, to support a pastor.

And lastly, The Presbytery of Huntingdon, from which no report has been received by this Synod since their last report to the General Assembly, to which the Synod beg leave to refer. By order of Synod,

NATHANIEL IRWIN, *Stated Clerk*.

*May* 19*th*, 1801.

The Synod of Virginia made no report.

The Presbyteries composing that Synod were called on for their duplicate reports, that the delinquency of that Synod might in some measure be supplied. The Presbytery of Ohio only produced such a duplicate. The Assembly, however, received and read the reports which were made to the Synod of Virginia from the Presbyteries of Hanover, Winchester, Lexington, and Redstone, and which were obtained from an individual of that Synod. On the whole, the Assembly regret the imperfect information received from this Synod, and the neglect of duty, both in the Synod and the most of its Presbyteries, and enjoin a more punctual attendance thereto in time to come.

As no report has been received from the committee, appointed last year, to dispose of the interest accruing on the moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, subject to the disposal of the General Assembly—on motion,

*Resolved*, That the said committee be directed to report as soon as possible.

And the Rev. Messrs. David Barclay and Nathaniel Harris, were appointed a committee to meet the Trustees of the College of New Jersey on the last Wednesday of September next, and direct concerning the disposition of the interest that shall accrue for the current year on the moneys aforesaid.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish the said committee with an attested copy of the above appointment.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met according to adjournment. Members present as before. Began with prayer.

The Rev. Benjamin Grigsby, of the Presbytery of Lexington; the Rev. Moses Hoge, of the Presbytery of Winchester, and Mr. William Montgomery, a ruling elder of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, produced their commissions respectively, as delegates to this Assembly, which being read, were approved, and they took their seats accordingly.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of the state of Connecticut, made their report, which was read as follows, viz:

"The delegates from the General Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, report, that they all attended, according to appointment, through the whole course of the session of the General Association. That besides the business peculiar to the churches of Connecticut, the General Association appointed a committee to confer with a committee that may be appointed by the General Assembly, on measures which may promote union among the inhabitants of the new settlements and the missionaries to those settlements, as appears by the inclosed papers. The General Association also voted, that instructions be given by the Trustees of the Missionary Society to their missionaries to avoid every thing that may interrupt peace in the new settlements, among those who are attached to the Presbyterian and Congregational forms of government. The Association established the following regulations respecting the reception of foreign ministers into their churches—That said ministers shall exhibit proper credentials of their good character and authority to preach the gospel, before they are permitted to preach in their pulpits; that they be examined as to their orthodoxy and literature before they are introduced into vacancies; that they shall continue for a year under the care of one of their Associations, or some body in connection with the General Association, and then go through the usual trials before they be installed or ordained.

The General Association have appointed the Rev. Seth Williston as a stated missionary, to be employed one half of his time at Union, in the state of New York, and the other half as an itinerant preacher in the adjacent parts. In consequence of an inquiry, very agreeable accounts were received of the revival of religion in the various parts of the State, and of the general peace of the churches.

They appointed as delegates to the next General Assembly, the Rev. Messrs. John Smalley, Levi Hart, and Samuel Blatchford.

The next General Association is to meet at Litchfield, at the house of the Rev. Daniel Huntington, on the third Tuesday of June next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Your delegates farther report, that they were received and treated with exceeding great cordiality and Christian friendship, and that the Association expressed high satisfaction with the connection subsisting between themselves and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and believed it would have a happy tendency to promote the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom.

JONATHAN EDWARDS,
ASA HILLYER,
JONATHAN FREEMAN."

The committee appointed to meet the committee of the General Association of Connecticut, on the second Tuesday of June, 1800, to examine the alterations and additions to Dr. Watts's version of the Psalms, made by the Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, brought in their report, which was read as follows, viz:

"That they met the said committee of the Association on the day appointed, and spent the remainder of that day, and the two following days, in carefully examining said alterations, which they approved with some amendments. And they report farther, that these joint committees unanimously advised Dr. Dwight to add a number of hymns, selected out of Dr. Watts's and Dr. Doddridge's hymns, with some few of Dr. Rippon's, to enlarge the system of Psalmody, and have the whole printed as soon as convenient, for the use of the churches.

JOHN RODGERS,
ASA HILLYER,
JONATHAN FREEMAN."

On motion, *Resolved*, That in reference to the above report, the Assembly do not think it advisable to express their approbation of any system of Psalmody, without its having been first submitted to their inspection and review.

The Rev. Matthew L. Perine and the Rev. William Boyd, appointed missionaries by the last Assembly, read their journals, containing an account of their labours and success.

The journal of Mr. Robert Chapman, also appointed a missionary, was sent forward by him and read to the Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock. A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Began with prayer.

Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The General Assembly took under consideration the important concern of voting for "Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States," agreeably to the provision made in the sixth section of the act of the Legislature constituting the Charter of Incorporation. After maturely discussing this subject, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That it is expedient to adopt and recommend the following system:

1. That when this subject is called up annually, a vote shall first be taken whether, for the current year, the Assembly will or will not, make any election of members in the Board of Trustees.

2. If an election be determined on, the day on which it shall take place shall be specified, and shall not be within less than two days of the time at which such election shall be decided on.

3. When the day of election arrives, the Assembly shall ascertain what vacancies in the number of the eighteen trustees incorporated, have taken place by death or otherwise, and shall first proceed to choose other members in their places. When this is accomplished, they shall proceed to the trial whether they will elect any, and if any, how many of that third of the number of the trustees which by law they are permitted to change, in the following manner, viz:—The list of the trustees shall be taken, and a vote be had for a person to fill the place of him who is first on the list. In voting for a person to fill said place, the vote may be given either for the person who has before filled it, or for any other person. If the majority of votes shall be given for the person who has before filled it, he shall continue in office. If the majority of votes shall be given for another person, this person is a trustee, duly chosen in place of the former. In the same form the Assembly shall proceed with the list, till they have either changed one third of the trustees (always including in the third those who have been elected by the sitting Assembly to supply the places become vacant by death or otherwise) or by going through the list, shall determine that no farther alteration shall be made.

Agreeably to the above system of procedure, the General Assembly

*Resolved*, That they will this year make an election of Trustees; and that the afternoon of Tuesday next be the time appointed for taking the votes.

The Rev. Mr. Logan, appointed a missionary by the last Assembly, read his journal, containing an account of his labours and success.

The Rev. Mr. Lindsley, also appointed a missionary, made no report respecting his mission.

The Rev. Mr. Freeman, likewise appointed a missionary, communicated to the Assembly his reasons for not complying with said appointment, which were sustained.

The Rev. Dr. Edwards, and the Rev. Messrs. Boyd, Clark, Hillyer, and Logan, and Messrs. Egbert, and Hutton, were appointed a committee to adjust the accounts of the missionaries of last year, and to prepare a report from the written journals read in the Assembly, and to bring it in as soon as convenient.

Dr. Henderson obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

Adjourned to meet on Monday morning next, at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Presbyteries were called upon to nominate suitable persons to be employed as missionaries by the Assembly. The nomination being gone through,

On motion, *Resolved,* That the committee before appointed on the subject of missionaries be instructed to make report of persons proper to be employed in missionary labours, to propose the most eligible routes for the same, and to digest the missionary business generally for the present year.

The Rev. Drs. Alison, McKnight, and Green, the Rev. Messrs. Clark, McMillan, and Alexander, and Messrs. Bingham, Hazard, and Hutton, were appointed a committee, to examine and report whether the funds of the General Assembly are now sufficient to justify this Assembly to undertake the business for which collections were ordered to be raised by the last Assembly; and also to what extent, and in what way, this business shall be prosecuted.

The Assembly, according to the resolution of Friday last, proceeded to hear the complaint and appeal of the Rev. Mr. Birch against the Presbytery of Ohio with respect to certain proceedings in his case. The parties being heard at full length, withdrew, when the Assembly adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before.

Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the complaint and appeal of Mr. Birch; when, after mature consideration of the subject, it was, on motion,

*Resolved,* That no evidence of censurable procedure in the Presbytery of Ohio, in the case of Mr. Birch, has appeared to this house; inasmuch as there is a discretionary power necessarily lodged in every Presbytery to judge of the qualifications of those whom they receive, especially with respect to experimental religion. But the Assembly, for the purpose of affording to Mr. Birch every relief which the nature of the case admits, did determine, if it is his desire, to proceed to his examination, agreeably to the rules of the Assembly in such cases made and provided. It was agreed that the said examination be deferred till a future session of the Assembly.

The Rev. Mr. Arthur obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

The Presbyteries of Winchester, Hanover, and Lexington, agreeably to order, reported their opinion respecting the constitutional alteration proposed by the Assembly; which opinion was, that said alteration ought to be made.

The Presbytery of New Castle reported, as their opinion, that said alteration ought not to be made.

The Presbyteries of New Brunswick and Ohio reported, that, agreeably to order, they had drawn up histories of their respective Presbyteries, which were produced and laid on the table.

Several other Presbyteries reported that they had made considerable progress in compliance with said order.

Ordered, That they proceed to complete the same as soon as convenient; and that all the Presbyteries which have not attended to said order, be careful to forward the histories which they were directed to prepare, to the next General Assembly.

The Presbytery of New York represented to the Assembly, that the perusal of the first Synod book of Philadelphia was necessary, in order to the completion of their Presbyterial History. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk of the Assembly be directed to put the said book into the hands of Dr. McKnight, for the use of the Presbytery of New York, who were directed to return the same to the Stated Clerk, at or before the next General Assembly.

The Rev. Mr. Snowden, and Mr. Bayard, were appointed a committee to call on the Treasurer of the General Assembly, and ascertain from him what has been done, pursuant to order given by the last Assembly, in distributing the copies of the Confession of Faith deposited in his hands.

Mr. Law laid before the Assembly, through the Committee of Overtures, a book of church music, to which he requested the sanction and encouragement of the Assembly. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. McKnight, and the Rev. Messrs. Black, Blatchford, Hillyer, and Bogart, be a committee to examine said book, and make report on Mr. Law's application as soon as convenient.

Mr. Moore obtained leave of absence from the Assembly for three days.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Tuesday, May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment.

Members present as before. Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Dr. Read, appointed a commissioner to this Assembly, and as an alternate to whom the Rev. Mr. John E. Latta had taken his seat, appeared in the Assembly, and took the seat which Mr. Latta resigned in his favour.

The committee appointed to devise and suggest an effectual method for selecting, printing, and distributing extracts from the minutes of this Assembly, made report, and the Assembly thereupon

*Resolved*, That Drs. Woodhull and McKnight, with Dr. Sweezy, be a committee to determine during the sitting of the Assembly, what parts of the minutes ought in their opinion to be published, and to mark such parts in the margin; that, on reviewing the whole minutes at the last session of the Assembly, the house will decide, as they proceed, whether the parts thus marked by their committee shall be published.

The Assembly farther directed, that the Stated Clerk of the Assembly, and the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly, as soon as may be practicable after the rising of the Assembly, have the minutes marked for publication, carefully transcribed and printed; and, as far as may be necessary, transmitted by post to the several Presbyteries; taking particular care that they be inclosed in strong wrapping paper: and the expense arising from the execution of this order, was directed to be paid by the Trustees of the Assembly.

The Presbyteries were called upon, in order, to specify the post-office to which the printed extracts shall be directed, and the persons to whom they shall be entrusted; and the said Presbyteries were directed to pay the postage on the copies of the extracts which they shall receive by this conveyance; and the said Clerk and Treasurer were further directed, to transmit two dozen copies of the said printed extracts to the Rev. Mr. Strong, of Hartford, for the use of the General Association of Connecticut.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey reported; and the said book of records was approved to page 144, inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the missionary accounts, and to report generally on the missionary business for the current year, made a report in part, and thereupon the Assembly

*Resolved*, That the following balances to their missionaries be paid, viz: To Mr. Perine, $104 57; to Mr. Logan, $85 86; to Mr. R. H. Chapman, $29 15; to Mr. Boyd, $54 36.

The Assembly proceeded to make choice of delegates from this body to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet at Litchfield, on the third Tuesday of June next; when the Rev. Dr. John McKnight, the Rev. Mr. Archibald Alexander, and the Rev. John B. Linn, were duly chosen; and the Stated Clerk was directed to furnish them with an attested copy of this minute, which shall be their commission for attending on the duties of said appointment.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. James Boyd, and Asa Hillyer, be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpits of Dr. McKnight and Mr. Linn, during their attendance on the sessions of the General Association.

Mr. Birch having expressed a desire that the Assembly would undertake his examination, agreeably to the resolution of yesterday, the Assembly proceeded to examine Mr. Birch on his experimental acquaintance with religion; when, after a full and free conversation with him on this subject, the Assembly

Adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before. Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly were informed that the Rev. Dr. Rodgers and Mr. John Nelson wished to resign their seats as members of the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly. The Rev. Dr. Alison, also, expressed to the Assembly his wish to resign his seat as a member of said Board—and their resignations were accepted accordingly.

The election of Trustees of the General Assembly, appointed to take place at this session, was postponed until Thursday morning next.

The consideration of Mr. Birch's examination was resumed, when, after maturely deliberating on the subject, it was

*Resolved*, That from the full and free conversation which the Assembly have had with Mr. Birch upon his experimental acquaintance with religion, they find no obstruction against any Presbytery, to which he may apply, taking him up and proceeding with him agreeably to the rules and regulations in this case made and provided.

The Rev. Mr. Patterson obtained leave of absence from the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morning morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment, and constituted by prayer.

Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Drs. Edwards, McKnight, and Woodhull, the Rev. Mr. Blatchford, and Mr. Hutton, were appointed a committee, to consider and digest a plan of government for the churches in the new settlements agreeably to the proposal of the General Association of Connecticut, and report the same as soon as convenient.

The committee appointed to inquire of the Treasurer of the General Assembly what had been done with respect to certain copies of the Confession of Faith, ordered to be sent by him to the frontier settlements, reported, That it appears that said books have been disposed of agreeably to order, viz: that one hundred copies of the Confession of Faith, and fifty copies of the printed extracts of the Assembly's proceedings, were sent to James Hathaway, Esq., at Fort Stanwix; the same number of Confessions and extracts to Messrs. Evans and Gordon, at Geneva; fifty copies of the Confession of Faith, and thirty of the printed extracts to Dr. John Hopkins, of Tioga Point; the same number of each to Matthias Hollenbach, Esq., of Wilkesbarre; and forty copies of the extracts to the Rev. Mr. Perine. That some of the said copies have been received by the persons to whom they were sent, and that others have not been received.

The Presbytery of Lexington reported to the Assembly their proceedings in the case of the Rev. John Glendy, late a member of the Presbytery of Route in Ireland, who had applied to be admitted a member of the Presbytery of Lexington, together with his credentials. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of the Presbytery in this affair have been orderly and regular, and that Mr. Glendy be received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church, in good standing.

The credentials of Mr. James Simpson, an ordained minister from the kingdom of Ireland, who has been taken under the care of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, were, by order of that Presbytery, laid before the Assembly, together with their proceedings in his case. After reading and considering the whole, the Assembly determined that they are sufficient to place Mr. Simpson in good and full standing with our church, in case his conduct and character shall receive the approbation of his Presbytery at the close of his period of probation, which is not yet completed.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, and the said records were approved, as far as page 203 inclusive.

The Assembly proceeded, agreeably to the resolution of Friday last, to enter into a full and free conversation respecting the state of religion in the bounds of the Presbyterian Church in the United States; when after considerable progress therein,

The Assembly adjourned till half-after 3 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before. Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the free conversation on the state of religion; when, after having gone through the same, Dr. Woodhull, Mr. McMillan, and Mr. Alexander were appointed a committee to draw up a general statement on this subject.

The Rev. Mr. James Boyd obtained leave of absence from the remaining sessions of the Assembly; and the Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, appointed an alternate commissioner in Mr. Boyd's absence, took his seat accordingly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 28th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before. Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly, to dispose of the interest accruing on moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, reported, that they had directed that the said interest be applied to the education of Mr. Neil, a student of said college from the county of Washington, in the state of Pennsylvania; and that an order had been passed by said board for the application of it accordingly.

The Assembly proceeded, agreeably to the resolution of Tuesday last, to elect Trustees of the General Assembly; when, according to the system of procedure in such case agreed upon, the Rev. Dr. John McKnight, Mr. William Hazlett, and Mr. Jonathan Smith, were first elected, in the place of Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Alison, and Mr. Nelson, who had resigned. The Assembly then proceeded to determine by ballot what further change should be made in the board; when the Rev. John B. Linn was elected to fill the place of the Rev. Mr. Hunter; Mr. Robert McMullin was elected to fill the place of Dr. David Jackson, and afterwards Dr. David Jackson was elected to fill the place of Mr. Robert Smith.

The committee appointed to consider and digest a plan of government for the churches in the new settlements, made a report, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The committee appointed to draught a general statement, as the result of the free conversation on the state of religion, made a report, which was read and approved, as follows:

"The Assembly having heard a circumstantial narrative from almost every one of its members, on the state of religion in his own charge, and in other places to which his observation had extended, are of opinion, that in general, the cause of religion has been progressive, and in some places eminently so. In most places, infidelity does not assume that bold and threatening aspect which it did for some years past, but seems to be in some measure abashed, and disposed to retire into its former state of concealment. In some instances, avowed and inveterate enemies to Christianity have been remarkably converted, and have become, to all appearance, sincere and lively Christians.

From many of their churches, the Assembly have heard the most pleasing accounts of the state of vital piety. Revivals, of a more or less general nature, have taken place in many parts, and multitudes have been added to the church. In the northern and eastern Presbyteries, there appears in several congregations a serious attention to the great things of religion, and its interests appear evidently to be advancing. In several of their churches, 'times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord,' have been experienced. Sinners have been brought to repentance, and saints have been comforted and edified. And these pleasing appearances, in some instances, still continue. From the west, the Assembly have received intelligence of the most interesting nature. On the borders of Kentucky and Tennessee, the influences of the Spirit of God seem to have been manifested in a very extraordinary manner. Many circumstances attending this work are unusual; and though it is probable that some irregularities may have taken place, yet from the information which the Assembly have received, they cannot but exceedingly rejoice in the abundant evidence given them that God has visited that people, and poured out his Spirit remarkably upon them. In the middle and southern Presbyteries, appearances are not so encouraging; for though in some of their churches religion flourishes, yet in many others the wise and foolish virgins are slumbering together; iniquity abounds, and the love of many waxes cold. Ignorance, vice, and infidelity do, in too many parts of our country, still prevail. The new settlements on our frontiers appear very desirous to have the gospel preached amongst them, and our missionaries who have visited them do not appear to have laboured without success. Good impressions have not unfrequently been made, and churches are rapidly forming, which will soon need settled pastors. The intelligence which the Assembly have received from the heathen tribes, is very pleasing, viz: That there is amongst them a willingness, yea, an ardent desire, to have the gospel preached to them. Their prejudices seem to be removed, and many important obstacles are surmounted. Some of their chief men have offered to commit their sons to Presbyteries and missionary societies, in order that they may be instructed, not only in the arts of civilized life, but also in the principles of the Christian religion. The prospect of the conversion of the Indians is now more flattering than it has ever been before. The wilderness already begins to bud, and it is hoped, will soon blossom like the rose. The solitary cottage of the wandering savage will, the Assembly trust, be soon gladdened by the reception of the glorious Redeemer; with whom there is no difference between the Jew and Greek, between the barbarous and refined, for he is 'the Saviour of all men,' and 'the propitiation, not only for our sins, but for the sins of the whole world.'"

The Assembly then adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*Half-after* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment.

Members present as before. Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

A communication was received from the Trustees of the General Assembly, by Dr. Smith, a member of that Board, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The committee appointed to prepare a statement from the journals of the missionaries, and to digest a plan of missions generally for the current year, made a report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Birch applied to the Assembly, for an explanation of their decision in his case, and for direction with regard to any applications which he may be disposed in future to make, to be taken under the care of any of the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Assembly.

Upon which it was moved and seconded, that any Presbytery which may agree to receive Mr. Birch, on account of the length of time which he has been in this country and his present peculiar situation, have a dispensing power with respect to the whole or any part of the probationary time prescribed by our rules; which passed in the negative.

It was then moved and seconded, that no answer be given to Mr. Birch's inquiries.

On this motion the previous question was taken, and carried in the negative; and the main question was lost.

The Commission of the Synod of Virginia, on the west side of the Allegheny mountains, reported, that during the last year they sent out six missionaries: two to Detroit, who reported favourably of the disposition of the people there to receive the gospel. They there met with a young Indian, who expressed a great desire of obtaining learning, whom they brought with them on their return, and who now appears to be seriously exercised about the great concerns of his immortal soul. Two others were sent to Cornplanter, chief of the Senecas; he received them kindly, and it is expected that some of his young people will come in during the ensuing summer in order to be instructed. Two others were sent to the settlements on the Muskingum. In the course of last winter the Commission opened a subscription, and have a prospect of obtaining something considerable for the support of missionaries, to preach the gospel in the frontier settlements, and among the Indians.

The Synod of the Carolinas reported, that they have sent two missionaries in company with the Rev. James Hall to the Natchez, and that they have enjoined upon the respective Presbyteries under their care to make every possible exertion to raise contributions for the support of these missionaries.

The report of the Committee of Missions for the current year was taken up and considered; and after proceeding some length therein the farther consideration thereof was postponed until to-morrow morning.

The Rev. Mr. Dagget obtained leave of absence, during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morning morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 29th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before. Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The consideration of the report of the Committee of Missions was resumed: and after some farther progress made therein, the farther consideration thereof was postponed.

A report from the Rev. James Hall, a missionary appointed by the Assembly, together with several papers accompanying the same, was received and read. On motion

*Resolved*, That the report on the subject of missions for the current year, be recommitted to the same committee, for the purpose of incorporating therein such statements from Mr. Hall's communication, as may be judged proper for the information of the churches.

The report of the committee appointed to consider and digest a plan of government for the churches in the new settlements, was taken up and considered, and after mature deliberation on the same, approved, as follows:

"Regulations adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, and by the General Association of the state of Connecticut, (provided said Association agree to them,) with a view to prevent alienation, and to promote union and harmony in those new settlements which are composed of inhabitants from these bodies.

1. It is strictly enjoined on all their missionaries to the new settlements, to endeavour, by all proper means, to promote mutual forbearance, and a spirit of accommodation between those inhabitants of the new settlements who hold the Presbyterian, and those who hold the Congregational form of church government.

2. If in the new settlements any church of the Congregational order shall settle a minister of the Presbyterian order, that church may, if they choose, still conduct their discipline according to Congregational principles, settling their difficulties among themselves, or by a council mutually agreed upon for that purpose. But if any difficulty shall exist between the minister and the church, or any member of it, it shall be referred to the Presbytery to which the minister shall belong, provided both parties agree to it; if not, to a council consisting of an equal number of Presbyterians and Congregationalists, agreed upon by both parties.

3. If a Presbyterian church shall settle a minister of Congregational principles, that church may still conduct their discipline according to Presbyterian principles, excepting that if a difficulty arise between him and his church, or any member of it, the cause shall be tried by the Association to which the said minister shall belong, provided both parties agree to it; otherwise by a council, one half Congregationalists and the other Presbyterians, mutually agreed upon by the parties.

4. If any congregation consist partly of those who hold the Congregational form of discipline, and partly of those who hold the Presbyterian form, we recommend to both parties that this be no obstruction to their uniting in one church and settling a minister; and that in this case the church choose a standing committee from the communicants of said church, whose business it shall be to call to account every member of the church who shall conduct himself inconsistently with the laws of Christianity, and to give judgment on such conduct. That if the person condemned by their judgment be a Presbyterian, he shall have liberty to appeal to the Presbytery; if he be a Congregationalist, he shall have liberty to appeal to the body of the male communicants of the church. In the former case, the determination of the Presbytery shall be final, unless the church shall consent to a further appeal to the Synod, or to the General Assembly; and in the latter case, if the party condemned shall wish for a trial by a mutual council, the cause shall be referred to such a council. And provided the said standing committee of any church shall depute one of themselves to attend the Presbytery, he may have the same right to sit and act in the Presbytery as a ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That an attested copy of the above plan be made by the Stated Clerk, and put into the hands of the delegates from this Assembly to the General Association, to be by them laid before that body, for their consideration; and that if it should be approved by them, it go into immediate operation.

The Presbyteries and individuals appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations in behalf of the Trustees of the General Assembly, were called upon to make report of their respective exertions and success in said business; when, having received all the reports which were brought forward, Dr. McKnight, Mr. Black, and Mr. Hazard, were appointed a committee to draught a general statement as the result of said reports, and to propose the proper compensation to be made to the agents employed in this business.

The Assembly then adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before.

Constituted with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to consider the request of Mr. Law, respecting his book of church music, made their report, which was read and approved, as follows, viz: "That however laudable Mr. Law's exertions are to promote the knowledge of the science, whatever merit his collection may possess in itself, and however desirable it is that as great uniformity as possible should prevail in our modes of worship; yet considering the various habits and taste of the churches composing our body, the impropriety of checking a spirit of improvement, and the liberty which every congregation will claim to use such tunes as are agreeable to their own feelings and taste, it would be inexpedient for the General Assembly to sanction and recommend any one collection or system of church music whatever."

The Rev. Mr. Collins, and Mr. Rothwell, obtained leave of absence, during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

The communication from the Trustees of the General Assembly was again read, and afterwards taken up by paragraphs; and some progress being made therein, the further consideration thereof was postponed till to-morrow morning.

On motion, it was

*Resolved*, That notwithstanding the reference to the Synod of the Carolinas, and the Synod of Virginia, with respect to missionaries, the Assembly may send missionaries to labour in the bounds of the aforesaid Synods.

The Rev. Dr. Woodhull, the Rev. Messrs. Fish, Snowden, and Wood, and Messrs. Brewster, and Bayard, obtained leave of absence, during the remainder of the sessions of the General Assembly.

The Rev. Nash Le Grand obtained leave of absence till Monday.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 30*th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before. Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

A letter from the Rev. James McMillan, a minister of the church of Scotland, to Mr. Andrew Glassell, of Madison county, Virginia, accompanied by an address from Mr. Glassell to the Assembly, respecting certain moneys collected in Scotland some years ago for the education of the Indians, was received and read: and the Rev. Dr. Cooper, and the Rev. Messrs. Hoge, and Alexander, were appointed a committee to consider and report on the subject referred to in said papers.

The committee appointed to report on the subject of missions generally for the current year, made a farther report, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the communications from the Trustees of the Assembly, and after having made some progress therein, the farther consideration of it was postponed.

The Rev. Mr. Blatchford obtained leave of absence from the remaining sessions of the Assembly. The Rev. Mr. Alexander obtained leave of absence during the remainder of this session. The Rev. Dr. Edwards obtained leave of absence during the remaing sessions of, the Assembly.

The Assembly then adjourned till Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*June* 1*st*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before. Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to consider the communication respecting certain moneys collected some years ago in Scotland, for the education of the Indians in America, reported,

"That although the fervent zeal for the conversion of the heathen which dictated such communication is highly laudable, yet from all the information which can be obtained on the subject, they cannot think that any attempt at present, by this Assembly, to obtain said moneys, would be consistent with propriety and decency."

On motion, *Resolved,* That the foregoing report be adopted;

And the Stated Clerk was directed to send an attesteded copy of the above report and resolution to Mr. Glassell.

The committee appointed to prepare a general statement, as the result of the reports made by the agents of the Assembly for soliciting donations, made a report, which was read and approved, as follows, viz:

"The committee appointed to draught a general statement, as the result of the reports of the agents for soliciting donations, and propose the proper compensation to be made to the agents employed in this business,

Report, That they have examined the accounts of the agents and discovered no errors therein. That the amount of subscriptions procured and reported is

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| By Mr. Clark, | $6869 47 | whereof is uncollected, | $523 25 |
| " Dr. Green, | 2124 70 | do. | 1024 80 |
| ' Dr. Tennent, | 1476 11½ | do. | 37 00 |
| " Mr. Cathcart, | 1889 64 | whereof the whole has been collected. | |
| Whole amount, | $12359 92½ | Uncollected, | $1515 04 |

In addition to the above sum mentioned as being uncollected, Mr. Clark states that there are several sums (due from Springfield, Westfield, New Providence, Morristown, Mendham, Allentown, and Boundbrook,) which are uncollected; but as there has been no final statement of their subscriptions, and he is not in possession of the lists, the amount uncollected from those churches cannot now be ascertained.

The compensations to your agents are to be deducted from the subscriptions which have been collected. In considering these, your committee took into their view the distance travelled by the agents respectively, the nature of the country through which they travelled, whereby their labour would be increased or otherwise, the expense incident to different routes, and other circumstances; and upon the whole are of opinion that the following allowances ought to be made to the agents, in full for their time, services, and expenses, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| To Mr. Clark, | | $250 00 |
| " Mr. Catheart, | $150 00 | |
| Deduct, charged by him for his expenses, and deducted from his account of collections, | 65 63 | |
| Balance to be paid Mr. Cathcart, | | $84 37 |
| To Dr. Tennent, | 100 00 | |
| Deduct his expenses, being deducted by him from his account of collections, | 35 00 | |
| Balance to be paid to Dr. Tennent, | | 65 00 |
| To Dr. Green, | | 50 00 |

Upon these principles the account will stand as follows, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| Dr. The Trustees of the Assembly, | |
| To amount of compensations to the agents, | $550 00 |
| To amount of subscriptions uncollected as above, | 1585 05 |
| Do. do. from Springfield, &c. | |
| Cr. | |
| By amount of subscriptions, | $12359 92½ |
| Balance due the Trustees, | |

The committee would do injustice both to the merits of the agents and to their own feelings, were they not to add, that from the accounts and reports laid before them, it appears evidently, that the gentlemen to whom the business of procuring subscriptions was committed, have prosecuted it with such commendable attention, diligence, and zeal, as, besides the pecuniary allowance proposed, justly entitle them to a reward more grateful to generous minds, the thanks of this Assembly.

*June 1st*, 1801."

A communication was received from the Trustees of the Assembly, requesting that the Assembly would appoint a committee, to meet a committee of the said Trustees, for the purpose of digesting and establishing a regular and stated mode of intercourse, in the transaction of business between the Assembly and that Board. On which the Rev. Messrs. Linn and Boyd, and Mr. Egbert, were appointed a committee for the above purpose; and the said joint committee was directed to meet this evening at 8 o'clock, in the Presbyterian church in Arch street.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the communication from the Trustees of the General Assembly, and having gone through the same, thereupon

*Resolved*, 1. That the moneys obtained in consequence of the system adopted by the Assembly of the last year for soliciting contributions for the support of missionaries, and for other objects specified in their act, and all such moneys as may be hereafter received for the same objects (except the customary annual collections, which it is hoped will still continue to be made as usual) be regarded a capital stock, which shall at no time be broken in upon or diminished; and that it be invested, agreeably to a recommendation hereinafter made, in secure and permanent funds.

2. That the interest only arising from this capital, together with the annual collections, and other donations made with the express design of their being expended within the year, be employed in supporting missionaries, in propagating the gospel among the Indians, in instructing the black people, and purchasing pious books to be distributed among the poor, or in maintaining, when the Assembly shall think themselves competent to the object, theological schools, and for such other pious and benevolent purposes as may hereafter be deemed expedient.

3. That for the farther augmenting the funds of the corporation, a foundation for which is already so happily laid, it is hereby earnestly recommended to the several Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly, except where agents are appointed by the Assembly, to take effectual order, by appointing agents or otherwise, as to them shall seem most expedient, for obtaining from all the congregations within their bounds, whether vacant or supplied with pastors, and as far as possible from each person belonging to our communion, as well as from persons belonging to other denominations, who may be disposed to favour the objects (except those who have already contributed), such voluntary contributions as God may put into their hearts to make; and of their fidelity and success herein, to render an account to the next Assembly. And in addition to the arrangement here specified, this Assembly determine to appoint an agent or agents, to solicit donations in places where the order of our church is not fully established, or where there is a prospect of obtaining aid to funds appropriated to objects so important to the general interest of religion and good morals, as those to which the funds contemplated are destined; and that it be referred to the Synod of Virginia and the Synod of the Carolinas, to consider whether it be most advisable that the missionary business, as it has respect to the Synod of the Carolinas and the Eastern Commission of the Synod of Virginia, be conducted in future in

the manner in which it has been for some time past; or whether it would not be more advisable that their funds should be put into those of the Assembly, and the missionary business in those parts wholly managed by them; and that the said Synods report on this subject to the next Assembly.

4. That in order to encourage farther contributions for the pious ends heretofore mentioned, and to satisfy the public mind with regard to the wise and faithful application of the moneys already obtained, the Assembly will publish yearly, along with their printed extracts, a full and particular account of all contributions received, and of all appropriations made.

5. That there be made a purchase of as many cheap and pious books as a due regard to the other objects of the Assembly's funds will admit, with the view of distributing them, not only along the frontiers of these States, but also among the poorer classes of people, and the blacks, or wherever it is thought useful; which books shall be given away, or lent, at the discretion of the distributor. And that there be received from Mr. Robert Aitkin, toward the discharge of his debt, books to such amount as shall appear proper to the Trustees of the Assembly, who are hereby requested to take proper measures for the distribution of the same.

6. That the funds which are at present in the hands of the corporation be employed principally in increasing the number of missionaries, and extending the blessings of the gospel by their labours through a greater scope of country.

7. That in order to attain one important object of the contributions, (the instruction of the blacks,) Mr. John Chavis, a black man of prudence and piety, who has been educated and licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Lexington, in Virginia, be employed as a missionary among people of his own colour, until the meeting of next General Assembly. And that for his better direction in the discharge of duties which are attended with many circumstances of delicacy and difficulty, some prudential instructions be issued to him by the Assembly, governing himself by which, the knowledge of religion among that people may be made more and more to strengthen the order of society. And the Rev. Messrs. Hoge, Alexander, Logan, and Stephenson, were appointed a committee, to draught instructions to said Chavis, and prescribe his route.

8. That the General Assembly may be regularly, and as completely as possible, possessed of all the information requisite to direct their proceedings in the great work of extending religious instruction to the uninstructed parts of our country,

*Resolved*, That in place of all other reports required of Presbyteries respecting the articles herein after enumerated, it be enjoined on, and is hereby enjoined on all the Presbyteries under the care of this General Assembly, carefully to inform themselves, and to instruct their delegates to the next General Assembly to report to that body on the following subjects:

1. Respecting the Indian tribes on our frontiers; their apparent disposition for civilization and for receiving religious instruction; what means may have been used with them, and the success of those means from time to time.

2. Respecting our frontier settlements of white people; giving every information of these settlements which may be of use to direct in carrying on missionary labours among them; pointing out particularly those parts to which religious books should be sent for gratuitous distribution, and the persons in or near to those parts, to whose care said books should be sent.

3. Respecting those parts in the interior of our country, that are in a great degree, or wholly destitute of the stated means of religious instruction, giving as familiar a view of the real state of such destitute portions of our

country as may be of any use in directing the mode of giving them the relief required. Also pointing out to what parts, and to what persons in or near those parts, religious books should be sent for gratuitous distribution.

4. Respecting the black people, designating particularly the places where, and the manner in which, it would be most advisable to attempt their instruction, by the aid of our public funds.

5. That the respective Presbyteries also report to the next Assembly all such persons under their care as are proper to be employed, and may be procured, to serve as missionaries to the Indian tribes, the frontier settlements, the destitute portions of the interior, or to the black people. And that they be especially careful to report none for these services but those of whose meetness for the work they have entire satisfaction.

The report of the committee to prepare a statement from the agents of last year, and to settle the compensation for the same, was again taken up and reconsidered, two thirds of the Assembly agreeing to it, when the farther sum of one hundred dollars was added to the compensation of Mr. Clark.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk be allowed the sum of forty dollars, as a compensation for his services for the present year, and also that he be paid the full amount of all postage on letters paid by him in his official character.

*Resolved*, That the subject of altering the constitution, recommended to the attention of this Assembly by the last, be deferred; and that it be recommended to the consideration of the next General Assembly.

The Assembly proceeded to appoint agents for soliciting farther donations, for aiding the fund of the corporation; when the Rev. Dr. Cooper, and the Rev. Mr. Patterson, were appointed to solicit donations in the bounds of the Presbytery of Huntingdon; and the Rev. Robert Smith was appointed to solicit donations for the same purpose in the state of Georgia.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Assembly be requested to lay on the table of this house, as soon as may be practicable, a statement of the interest of the funds now in his hands for the current year, with the amount of the annual contributions he has received for the year past; and likewise an estimate of the probable amount of the annual contributions for the current year.

The Rev. Dr. Alison obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

The Assembly then adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before.

Began with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Ordered, That Dr. Green, Dr. Tennent, and Mr. Clark take proper measures to collect such outstanding moneys as have been subscribed and not collected in their respective routes, and forward said moneys to the treasurer of the corporation; and that Dr. McWhorter be requested to forward to the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, stated missionary on the frontiers, such religious books as have been given in Newark, to be distributed by direction of the General Assembly.

The report of the Committee of Missions for the current year was again taken up and considered; when the following statement and recommendations, as the result of the journals read by the missionaries, were received and adopted, viz:

"That from their journals it appears that the missionaries proceeded on the respective routes prescribed to them by the last General Assembly, and that they have been diligent and laborious in discharging the duties of their missions. They have preached the gospel in season and out of season, and often to solemn assemblies. They have, in several instances, administered the Lord's supper, and baptized numbers of children, and several adults. They have visited from house to house, and conversed with families and individuals on serious and religious subjects. There is a solemn and increasing attention to the great realities of religion in many parts of the country through which they have travelled. Numbers, since the last year, have been added to the communion of the church. On the whole, your committee are of opinion that the prospect of usefulness in prosecuting the missionary business is still increasing. There are many towns on the frontiers which appear to be able to support the stated ministrations of the gospel, among which the following appear to demand particular attention: Wyoming, Newtown, Aurelius, Milton, Homer, Bloomfield, and Charlestown, each able to support a settled pastor; Bath, and Port Town, united; Lackawack, in connection with Canaan and Cherry Ridge; Hartford and Genessee, united; Romulus and Washington, united; Lachequin and Tioga Point, united.

The country of the Natchez appears to demand the particular attention of the Assembly. The missionary sent thither by the last Assembly, and those who were sent with him by the Synod of the Carolinas, performed the service to which they were appointed with great judgment, diligence, and success; and a door seems to be happily opened for publishing the true gospel in a country lately destitute of it. The committee think it of high importance that the mission to the said country be continued.

The committee take the liberty to suggest the propriety of enjoining upon all missionaries employed by the Assembly to inculcate upon those settlements which they visit, the importance of settling the gospel ministry among them; and that they also urge upon all the frontier settlements, and especially upon those above mentioned, the necessity of contributing to the support of those ministers who are sent among them by the Assembly. The committee would farther recommend, that missionaries be instructed to inquire particularly after the small settlements, which, on account of their obscurity, or infancy, may have been hitherto overlooked and neglected by former missionaries; and that, unless otherwise directed by the stated missionary, they designate to themselves convenient circuits, comprehending several settlements, in which they may successively and repeatedly preach, and perform other ministerial duties; and that in all places where they travel, they shall spend as much time as possible in visiting from house to house, and conversing with individuals on the most important subjects of practical religion."

The Rev. Peter Fish, of the Presbytery of Albany, was appointed a missionary for six months, in the county of Oneida and its vicinity. The Rev. Robert H. Chapman, was appointed a missionary for two months, on the Susquehanna, from Salem to Sashequin, inclusive; and the Rev. Jonas Coe was appointed a missionary for six weeks, on the west side of Lake Champlain, and such other settlements as he may think proper to visit. The Rev. Mr. Hillyer was appointed a missionary on the frontiers for two or three months; to take that route which Mr. Hillyer, by and with the advice of the stated missionary, shall judge most useful. The Rev. Mr. Alexander was appointed a missionary for six months, in Virginia and in the state of Georgia, at such time and in such manner as the state of his health will admit; and he was also appointed to solicit donations for the use of the General Assembly. The Rev. Messrs. Logan and Grigsby were appointed missionaries for two months, to itinerate through the lower parts of Virginia, and also to solicit donations. The Rev. Mr. Janeway was appointed a missionary for two months, in the Peninsula between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, at discretion. And the Assembly recommended to the Presbytery of New Castle, to send one or two more missionaries into the same district of country, for some months during the present year; and if possible, such missionaries as might be likely to settle as pastors of congregations.

The Assembly earnestly recommended it to the Synod of the Carolinas to send one or more missionaries to Natchez, the ensuing fall; and the Assembly did engage to assist in making compensation for the same, if the funds of the Synod should be inadequate for the purpose.

*Resolved*, That the compensation to missionaries, for the present year, be thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month, and that they account for all the moneys received by them.

The Rev. Mr. Bogart was appointed an agent to solicit donations for the General Assembly, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Long Island.

The Rev. Messrs. John B. Linn, and Philip Milledoler, were appointed agents in connection with Dr. Green, to solicit farther donations in the city of Philadelphia, and parts adjacent; and the Rev. Mr. Irwin, to complete the business of soliciting donations in that part of Mr. Clark's district which was not gone through by him, and in such other places as Mr. Irwin may judge proper.

The Rev. Messrs. Clark, Stephenson, McMillan, Boyce, and Boyd, obtained leave of absence, during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

The Assembly then adjourned, till to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*June 2d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as before.

Constituted with prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to meet a committee of the Board of Trustees of the Assembly, to digest and prepare a regular and stated mode of intercourse between the Assembly and the Trustees, made a report which was read, and approved, as follows, viz:

"That the management and disposal of all moneys, goods, chattels, lands, tenements, hereditaments, and all other estate whatever, committed to their care and trust by the General Assembly, is invested in the said Trustees; unless where special instructions for the management and disposal thereof shall be given by the General Assembly in writing under the hand of their Clerk; in which case the corporation is to act according to said instructions. That an exact state of the accounts of the Trustees is to be exhibited by their Treasurer to the General Assembly, once in every year; whereupon it is recommended,

1. That this state of the accounts be laid before the General Assembly as early in their sessions as possible, in order that the General Assembly may know what appropriations it may be in their power to make, or what instructions to give to their Trustees, respecting the moneys in hand.

2. That when any appropriations are made by the General Assembly, a copy of their minute for that purpose, signed by the Clerk, shall be transmitted to the Trustees, and shall be their warrant for the payment of all moneys thus appropriated.

3. That when any measures are taken, or any resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, or the Board of Trustees, which it concerns the other to be acquainted with, due information of the same shall be given, as soon as possible, to the other."

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Treasurer be directed to advance one month's pay to such of the missionaries as may apply for the same.

The agents appointed to solicit donations to the funds of the Assembly, were directed to keep exact accounts of their expenses incurred in prosecuting said duty, and report the same to the Assembly.

The Janitor brought in his bill of expenses, incurred during the present sessions, amounting to thirty-six dollars and ninety-three cents, which was allowed, and the same was directed to be paid.

Whereas, It has frequently happened that members of this Assembly, neglecting their duty, and inattentive to the rules of decorum, have abruptly left the Assembly, and returned home without leave of absence,

*Resolved,* That in all similar cases which shall occur in future, it shall be the duty of the Clerk of this house, to give notice thereof to the Presbyteries to which such delinquent members may belong; and that it be recommended to the said Presbyteries, in their settlements with such delinquents, not to allow them any compensation for services as members of the Assembly.

The committee appointed to report on the funds of the General Assembly were discharged.

On motion, *Resolved,* That the Stated Clerk and Treasurer of the Assembly, with Mr. Hazard, be a committee to add to the printed extracts, such statements of the subscriptions lately received, as the materials in their hands may enable them to make, and they may judge proper.

The Rev. Messrs. Van Artsdalen and Smith, of the Presbytery of New York, were appointed a committee to make out supplies for Mr. Hillyer's pulpit, during his absence on his mission.

The Rev. Messrs. Ker and Freeman, of the Presbytery of Hudson, and the Rev. Mr. Nott, of the Presbytery of Albany, were appointed a committee to make out supplies for Mr. Coe's pulpit during his absence on his mission.

The Rev. Moses Hoge was appointed an agent to solicit donations for the Assembly, in the western part of the state of Virginia; and it was recommended to the Presbytery of Winchester, to take order for supplying Mr. Hoge's pulpit during his absence.

On motion, *Resolved,* That it be recommended to the Presbytery of Lexington, to take order for supplying Mr. Grigsby's pulpit during his absence on the mission to which he is appointed.

The committee appointed for that purpose, reported a set of special instructions for Mr. John Chavis, the Assembly's missionary in Virginia, which was approved; whereupon,

Ordered, That a copy of the same, certified by the Stated Clerk, be transmitted, with his commission, to Mr. Chavis.

On motion, *Resolved,* That it be recommended to all the ministers within the bounds of this Assembly, to read, every year, such parts of the printed extracts of the Assembly as they may judge proper and useful.

Mr. David Austin applied to the Assembly to be taken into connection with the Presbyterian Church; whereupon, on motion,

*Resolved,* That considering the various circumstances attending his case, and that it is now the close of the Assembly, and a considerable proportion of the members already gone, this Assembly do not think it advisable, at present, to come to any particular decision on the ground of his application.

*Resolved,* That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May, in the year of our Lord 1802, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon; whereupon, the Moderator dissolved the Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution, and

Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1801.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY. | | | | |
| Albany, | 11 | 6 | | 17 |
| Long Island, | 12 | 3 | | 4 |
| New Brunswick, | 16 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| New York, | 15 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Hudson, | 5 | 4 | | 11 |
| SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA. | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 17 | 2 | | 3 |
| New Castle, | 13 | 2 | 6 | 15 |
| Lewes, | 3 | 2 | | 5 |
| Baltimore, | 6 | 1 | | |
| Carlisle, | 14 | 6 | 3 | 12 |
| Huntingdon. No report. | | | | |
| SYNOD OF VIRGINIA. | | | | |
| Redstone, | 10 | | 2 | 24 |
| Winchester, | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Lexington, | 8 | 2 | 1 | |
| Ohio, | 16 | 2 | 6 | |
| Other Presb., no report. | | | | |
| SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS. | | | | |
| No report. | | | | |
| Total, | 152 | 38 | 24 | 109 |

DEATHS.—In the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. Walter Monteith died October 9th, 1799; in the Presbytery of Ohio, the Rev. John Findley died April 7th, 1800.

## 1802.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 20*th*, 1802.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, the Moderator of last Assembly, with a sermon from Luke xiv. 23: "Compel them to come in."

After prayer the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following persons were duly appointed commissioners to the Assembly; viz:

1. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Isaac Lewis.

2. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Doctors John Rodgers, and Azel Roe; Rev. James Richards, and Rev. Henry Kollock. *Elders*—Messrs. William Irvin, Joseph Linsley, and John Lasher.

3. PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Messrs. Joseph Rue, William Sloan, and Thomas Grant. *Elders*—Messrs. John Bayard, and Isaac Snowden.

4. PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, Rev. Philip Milledoler, and Rev. Nathaniel Irwin. *Elders*—Messrs. Ebenezer Hazard, and Hugh Henry.

5. PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Nathan Grier, Rev. Nathaniel W. Sample, and Rev. John E. Latta. *Elder*—Dr. William Duffield.

6. PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, Rev. Robert Cathcart, Rev. Francis Herron, and the Rev. Joshua Williams. *Elders*—Messrs. James McClean, Alexander Russel, and Walter Clark.

7. PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. James Inglis. *Elder*—Mr. James Irwin.

8. PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. Matthew Brewn. *Elder*—Mr. John Byer.

9. PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. Thomas Marquis, and Rev. John Watson. *Elder*—Mr. William McKinley.

10. PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. Samuel Tate.

11. PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. David Smith.

12. PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—The Rev. James McCrea.

13. SECOND PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—The Rev. James Templeton.*

The Rev. Messrs. Azel Backus and Ammi R. Robbins appeared in the Assembly, and exhibited certificates of their appointment as delegates to this Assembly from the General Association of Connecticut. The certificates being read and approved, they took their seats in the Assembly, agreeably to their appointment.

Whereas, The business of former Assemblies has been impeded by the want of a Recording Clerk, possessing that facility in the business which is acquired by experience; and whereas, it is not to be expected that any one person should perform this service permanently without receiving an adequate compensation for his labour; and whereas, this Assembly are persuaded that future Assemblies will see the reasonableness of the measure now contemplated, and co-operate on their part in giving it effect;

*Resolved*, That a permanent Recording Clerk be chosen, whose duty it shall be, from year to year, to draught the minutes of the Assembly during their sessions, and afterwards to perform such services respecting the transcribing, printing, and distributing the extracts, as shall be assigned to him from time to time; and that he be paid out of the funds of the Assembly three dollars per day for the time he shall be employed, as well during the sessions of the Assemblies as after their dissolution.

A vote being taken, the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, was chosen Clerk as aforesaid.

*Resolved*, also, That a Temporary Clerk be chosen by each Assembly as heretofore, to read the minutes and communications to the Assembly, and otherwise aid the permanent Clerk as occasion may require; and that he be paid one dollar per day for his service.

The Rev. Robert Cathcart was accordingly chosen Temporary Clerk for the present Assembly.

The following persons were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet here to-morrow morning at six o'clock, and afterwards upon their own adjournments, as occasion may require; viz:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, Rev. James Richards, William Sloan, Philip Milledoler, Nathan Grier, James Inglis, Matthew Brown, Thomas Marquis, Samuel Tate, David Smith, and James McCrea. *Elders*—Messrs. John Lasher, John Bayard, James McClean, Dr. William Duffield, and William McKinley.

The Assembly proceeded to read the minutes of the last General Assembly, and having made some progress therein,

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The Rev. William Schenck, of the Presbytery of Long Island, the Rev. John Johnson of the Presbytery of Lewes, Dr. Jonathan Elmer, a ruling elder of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and Mr. John Power, ruling elder of the Presbytery of Redstone, appeared in the house. Their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly.

---

* The Rev. Azel Roe was appointed Moderator this year, but by the oversight of the Clerk the record of the fact has been omitted.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly proceeded in reading the minutes of the last General Assembly, and finished the same.

Mr. Harris, a member of the committee appointed to meet the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, and direct the appropriation of the interest of certain moneys in their hands for the education of poor and pious youth, reported,

That the committee, not having received seasonable information, did not meet, but that Mr. Harris himself had met the said Trustees the 5th instant, and advised that the said interest be equally divided between Messrs. Reid and Neil, two young gentlemen from the western counties of Pennsylvania, and that the Trustees had applied it accordingly.

On motion, Ordered, That the Rev. Messrs. Spafford, Woodhull, and David Comfort, be a committee to meet the said Trustees at Princeton, the fourth Wednesday of September next, and direct the appropriation of the interest accruing on the said moneys the present year; and that the Stated Clerk furnish the committee with an attested copy of this minute.

Dr. Green and Mr. Lacey were appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey. Mr. Templeton and Mr. Richards to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia. Mr. Sample and Mr. Williams to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia. And Dr. Cooper and Mr. Milledoler to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas. Said committees to report as soon as convenient.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Green, Mr. Backus, Mr. Rue, Mr. Lacey, Mr. Marquis, Mr. Templeton, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Tate be a committee to examine the system of Psalms and Hymns published agreeably to a recommendation of a joint committee of the General Association of Connecticut and the General Assembly, and to report to this house whether, in their opinion, this Assembly ought to allow said system of Psalms and Hymns to be used in churches and private families.

On motion, Agreed, that this Assembly will this year hold an election for the choice of members for the Board of Trustees of the Assembly, and that this business be the order for next Wednesday.

The first Presbytery of South Carolina reported to the Assembly, on the constitutional articles referred to the Presbyteries, in the following terms, viz:

" The first Presbytery of South Carolina having taken into consideration the reference of the General Assembly relative to amending the Constitution, and upon investigating the same,

*Resolved*, That the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of the Constitution has (in their opinion) a principal relation to the mode or manner of altering or amending the Constitution, and therefore recommend that the word *standing* rules be retained, as already stated in the Constitution."

Dr. Green and Mr. Cathcart were appointed a committee to inspect the minutes of this and two preceding General Assemblies, in order to discover what proportion of the Presbyteries have authorized a change of the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of the Constitution, which had been referred to them for their opinion by the General Assembly of the year 1799, and to report the result to this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

The Presbyteries of Carlisle, Redstone, and the Second Presbytery of South Carolina, reported, That agreeably to the orders of the General Assembly they have drawn up histories of their respective Presbyteries, which were laid on the table.

Several other Presbyteries reported progress in this business, and others stated that they had not yet been able to commence the history of their Presbytery.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries which have not yet exhibited histories of their origin, progress, and present state, pay an early attention to the business, and report to the next General Assembly.

The delegates to the last General Association of Connecticut, reported,

"That they all attended the Association during the whole of their sessions, and were received and treated with great cordiality and friendship.

That the regulations submitted by the last Assembly, respecting the establishment of churches on the frontiers, consisting of members partly of the Presbyterian and partly of the Congregational denominations, were unanimously adopted by the Association. That the Association are forming a plan of intercourse between them and the Convention of the Clergy of the state of Vermont, similar to that subsisting between the said Association and the General Assembly."

Whereas, The records of the original Presbytery of Philadelphia were, by order of the late General Assembly, delivered to a member of the Presbytery of New York, under an express injunction that said book should be returned at or before the time of the meeting of this Assembly, which the Stated Clerk reports has not been done,

Ordered, That Dr. Rodgers be, and he hereby is, instructed to take the speediest and most effectual measures in his power, safely to place the said book in the hands of the Stated Clerk.

And whereas, the Assembly have been informed by Dr. Rodgers, that he has in his hands other important records of the former judicatories of this church, the Assembly requested Dr. Rodgers to transmit them also to the Stated Clerk, to be kept by him among the archives of the Assembly. It was further

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk do not deliver any records or papers in his possession to any person, unless by order of the General Assembly, and then that he always take a receipt for the same.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The Rev. Methuselah Baldwin, and the Rev. Andrew King, of the Presbytery of Hudson, appeared in the house; their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly, pursuant to a nomination made in the forenoon, proceeded to elect their delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet at the house of the Rev. Matthias Burnet, in Norwalk, on the third Tuesday of June next; when the Rev. Messrs. William Latta, Joseph Clark, and James Richards, were duly chosen; and the Stated Clerk was directed to furnish them with an attested copy of this minute, which shall serve as their commission.

Ordered, That the said delegates be paid two dollars each, for every forty miles they shall necessarily travel in going to and returning from the Association, and one dollar for each day they shall attend their duty therein; and that Dr. John McKnight, and the Rev. John B. Linn, delegates of last year, (who have not yet been paid,) receive the like compensation.

The last General Assembly having directed the Synods of Virginia and of the Carolinas to report to this Assembly their opinion, whether the missionary business within their bounds should in future be conducted by those Synods in their separate capacity, or whether the whole ought to be under the direction of the General Assembly; the Synods were called upon to report on this subject, when the members of the Assembly from the Synod of Virginia reported, that the said Synod had duly considered the matter, and were of opinion that the objects will be best promoted by that Synod continuing to conduct the missionary business as they have been accustomed to do for some years past.

The members present from the Synod of the Carolinas informed, that their Synod have not (so far as they know) decided on the subject.

Agreeably to the order of the Assembly, the commission of the Synod of Virginia west of the Allegheny mountains, reported, that since their last report they have sent out nine missionaries for different periods of time; that of these, three were sent to the Indians, viz: Shawanese, and other Indians about Detroit and Sandusky; that they have also sent among the Indians a young man of a pious character, to instruct them in agriculture, and make some instruments of husbandry for them; that Blue Jacket, an Indian boy, instructed under their direction, has given evidence of a work of grace on his heart, been received to church communion, and will go out this summer as an interpreter; and that, on the whole, the prospects of success in that quarter are flattering, as well among the Indians as the frontier whites.

A communication to this General Assembly from the General Convention of the Regular Ministers of the Gospel in the state of Vermont, proposing the formation of a plan of ministerial intercourse between them and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, was brought in and read.

On motion, The same was referred to Messrs. King, Sample, Lewis, and Dr. Elmer, to report thereon as soon as may be convenient.

A letter to this Assembly from the Session of Westminster, in the county of Jefferson and state of Tennessee, praying direction in a case of discipline, was brought in and read; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the same be committed to Dr. Cooper, Mr. Nathaniel Irwin, and Mr. James McClean, and that they report thereon as soon as may be convenient.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The Rev. John Johnson, appointed an alternate commissioner by the Presbytery of Lewes, has hitherto served as a member of this Assembly; the Rev. John Burton, the commissioner first named in the commission, appeared in the General Assembly, and expressed his willingness to take the seat, and Mr. Johnson requesting to resign it, the Assembly concurred, and Mr. Burton was accordingly received as a member.

Mr. David Austin, who had been formerly a member of the Presbytery of New York, and had withdrawn from the Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church, appeared before the Assembly and renewed his request of last year, to be again received into ministerial communion and regular standing in the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Austin having been fully heard in support of his petition, withdrew; when the Assembly, after maturely considering the case,

*Resolved*, That as it would be disorderly for this Assembly to restore Mr. Austin to his standing in the Presbyterian Church in the form in which it is sought by him, inasmuch as he withdrew from the Presbytery of New York, against whom he makes no complaint, and to whom of course he ought to apply, so this Assembly, in the course of the discussion had on the subject of Mr. Austin's application, have had before them sufficient evidence that it is inexpedient, at present, to recommend his reception by any judicature of this Church. Yet the Assembly are willing to hope that the time may come when the restoration of Mr. Austin to his former standing may take place, to his own satisfaction and the edification of the church.

The Trustees of the Assembly stated, that the Treasurer had paid the sum of twenty-six dollars to one of the delegates to the General Association, and the sum of two hundred and sixty dollars to the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, the stated missionary of this Assembly, and that the said sums were paid without the usual order; that the Trustees have been convinced that the said payments were necessary and proper, and pray the Assembly to make an appropiration to cover the expenditure.

The Assembly having considered the circumstances of these respective cases,

*Resolved*, That the expenditure be, and it hereby is, approved.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey produced their report, which was read, and is as follows, viz :

The committee appointed to prepare a Synodical report, brought in their report, which was read, and is as follows :

That they consist of five Presbyteries, viz : 1. The Presbytery of Albany. 2. Of Hudson. 3. Of Long Island. No reports having been brought in to the above Synod from these Presbyteries, no statement of their situation can be reported.

4. The Presbytery of New York, consisting of twenty members, of whom sixteen have charges, and four have no charges. That they have five vacant congregations, each able to support a minister; and two that are not able. They have received Mr. Robert Smith from the Presbytery of Albany, October 5th, 1801 ; and Mr. Edward D. Griffin, from the Northern Association of Litchfield in Connecticut, October 7th, 1801, and installed him pastor, with Dr. McWhorter, of the congregation of Newark, October 20th, 1801. They have dissolved the pastoral relation between Mr. Lemuel Fordham and the congregation of Succasanny, October 22d, 1800 ; and between Mr. Jacob Vanartsdalen and the congregation of Springfield, May 6th, 1801 ; and between Mr. Asa Hillyer and the congregation of South Hanover, August 4th, 1801. That they have dismissed Mr. John J. Corle, to join the Western Association in Fairfield county, in the state of Connecticut, May 7th, 1801 ; and that Mr. Lemuel Smith departed this life October 10th, 1801. They have five licentiates and two candidates, as appears from reports Nos. 1 and 2.

5. The Presbytery of New Brunswick, consisting of twenty-one members, fifteen of whom have charges, and six have no charges ; one of whom is President of the College of New Jersey, and supplies statedly at Princeton, and one is stated supply in three vacant congregations. They have seven vacant congregations, which in a united capacity are able to support three ministers ; they have one vacant congregation not able to support a minister. They have ordained Mr. Ebenezer Grant, November 29th, 1800. They have received Mr. Nathaniel Harris from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, April 28th, 1801, and have dissolved the pastoral relation between Mr. Samuel F. Snowden and the congregation of Princeton, April 29th, 1801. They have one licentiate and one candidate, as appears from reports Nos. 3 and 4.

The Synod of Virginia laid their report before the Assembly, which being read, was accepted, and is as follows :

That they consist of nine Presbyteries, viz : the Presbytery of Hanover, consisting of eleven ordained ministers, viz : The Rev. Dr. James Waddel, without a charge ; William Irwin, without a charge ; Archibald McRoberts, without a charge; Archibald Alexander, without a charge; William Calhoon, without a charge; James Mitchel, pastor of Bethel, Salem, and Pisgah; James Turner, colleague with Mr. Mitchel; John D. Blair, Hanover and Henrico; Drury Lacey, Cumberland; Matthew Lyle, Briery and Buffalo; and James Robinson, Rockfish and the Cove. They have two licentiates, viz: Messrs. John Todd and Conrad Speece. They have several vacancies under their care, viz: The Fork, Providence, and the Bird congregation, united, are able to support a minister; Old and New Concord, able; Sandy River, New Erection, and Chesnut, able; Good Hope, Smith's River, Good's Meeting House, Blue Stone, Cub Creek, and Mountain Plains, not able.

The Presbytery of Lexington, consisting of twelve ordained ministers, viz: the Rev. John Montgomery, without a charge; Benjamin Erwin, without a charge; John Glendy, pastor of Brown's Meeting House, Bethel, and Staunton; William Wilson, Augusta church; John McClue, Tinkling Spring; Samuel Huston, Falling Spring and High Bridge; Benjamin Grigsby, Concord and Lewisburgh; Samuel Brown, New Providence; Robert Wilson, without a charge; George Baxter, Lexington and New Monmouth; Robert Logan, Sinking Spring, Roanoke, and the River; and Daniel Blain, Timberridge and Oxford. They have the following vacancies under their care, viz: The Pastures, united, able to support a minister; Mossy Creek, Harrisonburgh, and New Erection, able; Knops Creek, Little Levels, Jackson's River, mouth of the Cow Pastures and North Fork of the Roanoke, not able. They have lately dismissed Mr. John Chavis, a licentiate, to put himself under the care of Hanover Presbytery; and they have at present Mr. William McPheeters, a candidate on trial for the gospel ministry.

The Presbytery of Winchester, consisting of seven ordained ministers, viz: the Rev. Amos Thompson, without a charge; Moses Hoge, pastor of Shepherd's Town; Nash Le Grand, Opekon, and Cedar Creek; William Hill, Hopewel; William Williamson, South River and Fluit Run; John Lyle, Rumney, Springfield, and Frankfort; and Joseph Glass, Middle Town and Back Creek. They have one licentiate, viz: Mr. John Miles. They have the following vacancies, viz: Concrete, able to support a minister; Winchester, able; Lost River, Capon, Lancaster, and Charles Town, not able.

The Presbytery of Redstone, consisting of twelve ordained ministers, viz: the Rev. John Black, who statedly supplies Unity and Greensburgh; James Dunlap, pastor of Laurel Hill; Joseph Henderson, Ebenezer and Bethel; Jacob Jennings, Dunlap's Creek and Little Redstone; John McPherrin, Salem; Samuel Porter, Congruity; George Hill, Fairfield and Donegal; William Swan, Long Run and Sawickly; David Smith, Rehoboth and Round Hill; James Adams, Muddy Creek, George's Creek, and Union; and Francis Laird, Poke Run and Pucketty. They have two licentiates, viz: Messrs. William Moorehead and John Boyd. They have the Rev. Robert Steele, a minister from Ireland, upon trials, agreeably to an act of the General Assembly. They have one candidate for the gospel ministry, viz: Mr. John Wright. They have the following vacant congregations under their care, viz: Pittsburgh, able to support a minister; Pitt's Township, able; McKee's Port and Middlesex, able; Glade Run and Union, able; Thorn Ridge and Concord, able; Scrubgrass and Bear Creek, able; Morgantown and Pritchet's Settlement, able; Sandy Creek, Crossings, and Crab Orchard, able; Tyger's Valley, Clarkesburgh, Middletown, Turkey Foot, Somerset, Stony Creek, Tyrone, and Wheatfield, not able to support a minister.

The Presbytery of Ohio, consisting of sixteen ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. John McMillan, pastor of Chartiers; Joseph Patterson, Racoon; James Hughs, Lower Buffalo and Short Creek; Thomas Moore, Ten Mile; Boyd Mercer, without a charge; Samuel Ralston, Mingo Creek and Horse Shoe

Bottom; William Woods, Bethel and Lebanon; George Scott, Mill Creek and The Flats; Andrew Gwinn, Pigeon Creek and Pike Run; John Watson, Miller's Run; Joseph Anderson, Richland, Short Creek, and Cross Roads, W. T.; John McClane, Montieurs; Elisha McCurdy, Cross Roads and Three Springs; and James Snodgrass, Steubenville and Island Creek. They have three licentiates, viz: Messrs. Smilie Hughs, James Spatterfield, and Robert Patterson. They have four candidates for the gospel ministry, viz: Messrs. Stephen Lindley, William Woods, Cephas Dodd, and Robert Johnstone.

They have twenty-seven vacant congregations, viz: Washington, able to support a minister; Upper Buffalo, able; Plain Grove and Centre, united, able; Westfield, Lower Neshanook, and Union, united, able; Moorfield and Upper Neshanook, united, able; Upper Sandy, Lower Sandy, and Fairfield, united, able; Pymatuning and Little Coveotte, united, able; Presque Isle and Fairview, united, able. The following vacancies are not yet able, viz: Lexington, Gravel Run, Long Run, Yellow Creek, Jetter's Flats, Highland, Beaver Town, Jefferson, Waynesborough, Charles Town, and Grave Creek.

The Presbytery of Erie, consisting of five ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. Thomas Hughs, New Salem and Mount Pleasant; William Wick, Hopewell and Young's Town; Samuel Tate, Upper Salem and Cool Spring; Joseph Stockton, Meadsville and Sugar Creek; and Robert Lee, Amity and Big Spring. N. B. All those vacant congregations lying north and northwest of the Allegheny and Ohio river, west of the Pennsylvania line, and which were reported as belonging to the Presbyteries of Redstone and Ohio, are for the future to be under the care of the Presbytery of Erie.

The Presbytery of Washington, consisting of eleven ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. James Kemper, without a charge; John Findley, pastor of Bracking congregation; William Speare, Chilicothe; John P. Campbell, Fleming and Locust; John Dunlevy, Red Oak and Eagle Creek; Richard McNemare, Cabin Creek; and Matthew G. Wallace, Cincinnati. They have one licentiate under their care, viz: Mr. John Thomson. They have the following vacant congregations under their care, viz: Orange Dale and Springfield, able to support a minister, and who have lately given a call to Mr. John Thomson; Johnson's Fork and Washington, able to support a minister; New Market, able; Turtle Creek and Clear Creek, able; Dayton, able; Bulack, able; Mad River, able; and Post St. Vincent's, able. The following are not able, viz: Mouth of Fleming, Mouth of Big Sandy, Union, Brush Creek, Big Indian, Duck Creek, Williams Town, High Bank Prairie, Peeper, Dorby, Old Chilicothe, Buck Skin, Point Creek, and Three Islands.

N. B. The Synod are unable to report the present state of the Presbyteries of Transylvania and Western Lexington, having had no report from them since the year 1798, and then a very imperfect one, which only gave an account of the ordained ministers, but not of their charges, nor of their vacant congregations.

Transylvania Presbytery, in the year 1798, consisting of nine ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. David Rice, Thomas Craighead, Terah Tamplan, William Mahon, Archibald Cameron, Samuel Findley, Matthew Houston, William McGee, and John Howe.

The Western Lexington Presbytery, in the year 1798, consisting of nine ordained ministers, viz: The Rev. James Crawford, Samuel Shannon, Isaac Tull, Robert Marshall, James Blythe, Joseph Howe, James Welsh, Samuel Rannells, and William Robinson.

A motion was made and seconded that this Synod petition the next General Assembly to divide this Synod into three distinct Synods, to be known by the names of the Synod of Virginia, to consist of the Presbyteries of Hanover, Lexington, and Winchester. The Synod of . . . . to consist of the Presbyteries of Redstone, Ohio, and Erie; and the Synod of Kentucky, to consist of the Presbyteries of Transylvania, Western Lexington, and Washington; which motion was carried, and the Synod ordered the Stated Clerk to transmit a copy of this minute to the next General Assembly.

The request expressed in the close of the above report being under consideration,

*Resolved*, That the same be committed to Messrs. Richards, Grier, King, Dr. Elmer, and Mr. McClean, to report thereon to this Assembly.

Mr. Russel obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till Monday morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Synod of Philadelphia exhibited their report, which was read and accepted, and is as follows, viz:

The Synod of Philadelphia report to the General Assembly, to meet at Philadelphia the 20th day of May, 1802, that the said Synod consists of six Presbyteries, viz:

The Presbytery of Philadelphia, consisting of eighteen ministers, whose names and pastoral charges are as follow: The Rev. Dr. John Ewing, co-pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Samuel Blair, without pastoral charge; Rev. Ashbel Green, co-pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. William M. Tennent, pastor of Abington, Norriton, and New Providence; Rev. James Boyd, pastor of Newtown and Bensalem; Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Neshaminy; Rev. John Davenport, Deerfield; Rev. Ethan Osborn, Fairfield; Rev. Abijah Davis, without pastoral charge; Rev. Philip Milledoler, pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Uriah Dubois, Deep Run and Tinicum; Rev. Robert Russel, Allens Township; Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, co-pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. John B. Linn, co-pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. George Potts, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Thomas Picton, Woodbury and Timber Creek; Rev. Buckley Carl, Pitts Grove; and Rev. William Latta, Great Valley and Charleston. One *licentiate*, viz: Mr. John Jones. *Vacancies*—viz: Cape May, able to support a pastor; Bridgeton and Greenwich, in conjunction, able to support a pastor; Penns Neck and Alloways Creek, in conjunction, able.

The Presbytery of New Castle, containing fifteen ministers, whose names and pastoral charges are as follow: The Rev. Dr. Thomas Read, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. William McKennan, Red Clay Creek; Rev. Colin McFarquhar, Donegal; Rev. William Arthur, Pequea; Rev. Nathan Grier, Brandywine; Rev. John Collins, St. George's; Rev. Nathaniel W. Sample, Lancaster, Leacock, and Middle Octorara; Rev. Francis A. Latta, First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. Samuel Martin, Slateridge, and Chanceford; Rev. George Luckey, Centre and Bethel; Rev. Thomas Grier, Middleton, Pennsylvania; Rev. Alexander Mitchell, Rev. Francis Hindman, and Rev. Samuel Leacock, without pastoral charges. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Charles Wallace, John Waugh, Joshua Knight, James Magraw, Charles Cummings, and Stewart Williamson. *Vacancies*—New London, Fagg's Manor, Upper Octorara, and Chesnut Level, each able to support a pastor; Little Britain, West Nottingham, Deer Creek, Head of Christiana, White Clay Creek, Pencader, Middleton, (Delaware,) Drawyers, Chatham, and West Chester, not able.

The Presbytery of Carlisle, containing nineteen ministers, whose names and pastoral charges are as follow: The Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit, President of Dickinson College; Rev. Robert Cooper, without pastoral charge; Rev. Dr. John King, pastor of Upper West Connegocheague; Rev. Robert Davidson, Carlisle; Rev. John Slemons, Rev. James Lang, and Rev. Daniel Jones, without pastoral charge; Rev. John Linn, pastor of Sherman's Valley; Rev. Samuel Waugh, Silver Spring and Monaghan; Rev. James Snodgrass, Hanover; Rev. William Paxton, Lower Marsh Creek; Rev. Robert Cathcart, York and Hopewell; Rev. David Denny, Chambersburgh; Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, Harrisburgh; Rev. John Boyd, without pastoral charge; Rev. Patrick Davidson, pastor of Tom's Creek and Piney Creek; Rev. Joshua Williams, Big Spring; Rev. Francis Herron, Rocky Spring; and Rev. David McConnaughy, Upper Marsh Creek and Connewago. *Licentiates*—Messrs. James Graham, Robert Kennedy, James Adair, Joseph Brady, Amos A. McGinley, John Moody, and Henry R. Wilson. *Vacancies*—Middle Spring, able to support a pastor; Paxton and Derry, able; East Connegocheague and Lower West Connegocheague, able; Upper and Lower Path Valley, able; Tuscarora and Falling Waters, able; Bedford, Great Cove, Mouth of Juniata, Sherman's Creek, Millar's Town, Williamsport, Hancock Town, and Hagerstown, not able to support a pastor.

The Presbytery of Baltimore, containing nine ministers, whose names and pastoral charges follow: The Rev. Dr. Patrick Alison, pastor of the Church of Baltimore; Rev. James Muir, Alexandria; Rev. Stephen B. Balch, Georgetown; Rev. Enoch Matson, Bermuda; Rev. James Inglis, co-pastor of the church of Baltimore; Rev. Samuel Knox, Rev. David Wiley, Rev. William Maffit, and Rev. John Brackenridge, without pastoral charge. *Vacancies*—Capt. John, Seneca, and Difficult, united, able to support a pastor; Bladensburgh and city of Washington, not able to support a pastor.

The Presbytery of Lewes and the Presbytery of Huntingdon, from neither of which the Synod have received any report, since their last report to the General Assembly, to which they are obliged to refer.

By order of the Synod, NATHANIEL IRWIN, *Stated Clerk.*
*Philadelphia, May 20th,* 1802.

The Synod of the Carolinas report to the General Assembly, that their body consists of eight Presbyteries, viz:

1. The Presbytery of Orange, from which we have no report.

2. The Presbytery of Abingdon, consisting of six ministers, whose names and pastoral charges are as follow: The Rev. Charles Cummins, without a charge; Rev. Edward Crawford, without a charge; Rev. Samuel Doak, without a charge; Rev. Jacob Luke, without a charge; Rev. Jonny W. Doke, Boiling Spring, Evensham, and Salem; and Rev. James Witherspoon, Mount Bethel and Timberridge. *Vacancies*—Sinking Spring and Green Spring, able to support a minister; Freeland and Bluestone, able; Glade Spring and Back Spring, able; Carter's Valley, able; Hopewell, Concord, Hebron, New Dublin, Upper Holsten, Tate's Settlement, Gilmore's Settlement, and Kindreck's Creek, not able. Communicants and baptisms not reported.

3. The first Presbytery of South Carolina, consisting of nine ministers, whose names and pastoral charges are as follow: Rev. Joseph Alexander, without a charge; Rev. James W. Stephenson, Bethelin Williamsburg, one hundred and four communicants, and Indian Town, ninety-six communicants; Rev. John Brown, Waxhaws and Unity; Rev. Robert B. Walker, Bethesda; Rev. Samuel W. Young, Lebanon and Mount Olivet; Rev. John Foster, without a charge; Rev. David E. Dunlap, Columbia; Rev. George G. McWhorter, without a charge; Rev. John B. Davis, Fishing Creek, sixty-five communicants, and Richardson, fifty-five communicants—ninety-seven infants

baptized; Rev. William G. Roseborough, Concord and Horeb, twenty-six infants baptized. *Licentiates*—Messrs. John Causert, George Reed, and Thomas Neely. *Vacancies*—Hopewell, able to support a minister; Salem, able; Bethel and Beersheba, able; Catholic and Purity, able; Dan, able; Hanging Rock, Miller's Church, Beaver Creek, and Granny's Quarter, able; Newhope, not able; Witherspoon, not able; Bethany, not able; Aimwell, not able; Calvary, not able; Ebenezer, not able; Little Bethel, not able.

N. B.—The Rev. Robert McCullock has been deposed since last Synod.

4. The Presbytery of Concord, consisting of thirteen ministers, whose names and pastoral charges are as follow: The Rev. Samuel E. McCorkle, D. D., Thyatira; Rev. James Hall, Bethany; Rev. James McKee, no charge; Rev. David Barr, suspended; Rev. William C. Davis, Olney; Rev. James Wallace, New Providence; Rev. Samuel C. Caldwell, Sugar Creek and Hopewell; Rev. Humphrey Hunter, Goshen and Unity; Rev. Joseph D. Kilpatrick, Third Creek and Unity; Rev. Lewis F. Wilson, Concord and Fourth Creek; Rev. John Carrigan, Rama and Bethphage; Rev. John M. Wilson, no charge; and Rev. John Andrews, no charge. *Licentiate*—Mr. Thomas Hall. *Vacancies*—able to support a minister, viz: Steele Creek, Poplar Tent, and Rocky River; not able—Jersey Settlement, Joppa, Coddle Creek, Philadelphia, Salem, Knob Creek, Muddy Creek, Little Britain, Mountain Creek, Pleasant Garden, Quaker's Meadows, Morganton, Mineral Spring, Chesnut Spring, Smyrna. Communicants and baptisms not reported.

5. The Presbytery of Hopewell, consisting of four ministers, whose names and pastoral charges are as follow: The Rev. Robert Cunningham, Bethany; Rev. Moses Waddel, no charge; Rev. William Montgomery, New Hope and Bethsaida; and Rev. Thomas Newton, Hebron. *Licentiate*—Mr. Edward Pharr. *Vacancies*—Smyrna, Liberty, and Providence, able to support a minister; Concord, Bethlehem, Currie's Creek, Harmony, Carmel, Sharta, Siloam, Flat Rock, and Sharon, not able; Bethsalem, Mesopotamia, Unity, and Sharon, not able.

6. The Presbytery of Union brought in no report.

7. The Second Presbytery of South Carolina, consisting of nine ministers, whose names and pastoral charges are as follow: The Rev. John Simpson, Good Hope and Roberts; Rev. James Templeton, no charge; Rev. Francis Cummins, Rocky River; Rev. Robert Wilson, Long Cane, one hundred and eighty-four communicants, thirty-five infants baptized; Rev. William Williamson, Fair Forest; Rev. James Guilliland, Bradaway, one hundred and six communicants, ten infants and one adult baptized; Rev. John B. Kennedy, Duncan's Creek and Little River; Rev. Andrew Brown, Bethlehem and Ebenezer, forty-three communicants, six infants baptized; and Rev. James McElhenny, no charge. Hugh Dickson, *licentiate*, accepted a call from Greenville and Smyrna. *Vacancies*—able to support a minister, Hopewell and Carmel, John's Island, Wadmalaw; not able, Cuffee town, Liberty Spring, Fair View, Grassy Spring, Union, Milford, Newtown, Nazareth, and North Paislet.

8. The Presbytery of Greenville, consisting of six ministers, whose names and pastoral charges are as follow: The Rev. Hezekiah Balch, Harmony; Rev. John Cusson, no charge; Rev. Samuel Davis, Mamre; Rev. Stephen Bovelle, Sinking Spring; Rev. George Newton, Swannanoa and Rems Creek; Rev. John Bowman, dismissed. *Vacant*—Providence, unable to support a minister. Approved.

WILLIAM MONTGOMERY, *M. S.*
JOHN BROWN, *Synod Clerk.*

*Fishing Creek, October*, 1801.

A communication was received from the Presbytery of Albany, stating that a joint committee, consisting of members of that Presbytery, and members from a Presbytery known by the name of the Northern Associate Presbytery, had met and agreed upon a plan of friendly correspondence between the ministers and churches belonging to these Presbyteries, respectively, consisting of three articles, viz:

The committee has in effect agreed,

1. That there shall be occasional communion between the members of the particular churches subordinate to those Presbyteries, respectively.

2. That there be a friendly interchange of services among the ministers, and,

3. That each Presbytery, while in session, may invite members occasionally present from the other, to sit as corresponding members.

That the Presbytery of Albany, having heard the report of the said committee, approved thereof, and resolved to request the General Assembly to sanction the same, and authorize the Presbytery of Albany to adopt it.

The Assembly, after due examination and deliberation, expressed their approbation of the said plan of correspondence.

The Assembly took up the journals of the missionaries appointed by last General Assembly, and after some time spent in reading the same,

*Resolved*, That they be committed to Dr. Cooper, Mr. Grier, Mr. Templeton, and Mr. McClean, who were directed carefully to examine the said journals, and other communications connected therewith, and to report to this Assembly such parts thereof, and such facts and opinions concerning them, as may deserve the special attention of this house.

A written application from the Presbytery of Albany was brought in and read, praying the Assembly to divide the said Presbytery into three Presbyteries; and to form the same into a Synod, to be known by the name of the Synod of Albany. On motion,

*Resolved*, That Dr. Rodgers, Messrs. King, Richards, Schenck, and Bayard, be a committee to take the same into consideration, and report thereon as soon as may be convenient.

A complaint of the Rev. Thomas L. Birch against the Presbytery of Ohio, accompanied with a communication from the congregation of Washington, (or certain members thereof,) intended to support the same, were brought in by the Committee of Overtures and read. After some time spent in determining the proper mode of hearing and deciding the cause, the Assembly

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted by prayer. Members present as before.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Rue, appointed an alternate commissioner by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and who has served as a member of the Assembly, informed, that Mr. Hunter, the commissioner first named in the commission, has arrived, and that Mr. Rue desired to resign the seat in his favour. The Assembly concurred, and Mr. Hunter took the seat.

The hearing of Mr. Birch's complaints was deferred.

The Assembly called upon the agents appointed by the last General Assembly to solicit subscriptions and raise money for the permanent fund of the Assembly, to give an account of the execution of their trust; when Dr. Cooper made a verbal report, purporting his diligent attention to the business assigned him, and that his labours had been attended with some success.

Mr. Irwin exhibited an account of his receipts and expenditures as the Assembly's agent, from which it appears that Mr. Irwin has given attention to the subject and been considerably successful.

No report was received from the other agents. On motion,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Lacey, Mr. Grier, and Mr. Hazard, be a committee to examine the accounts of all the agents who shall be ready for settlement, to adjust the same, allot them a reasonable compensation for their services, and report to this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

The consideration of Mr. Birch's complaint was resumed.

Mr. Birch exhibited the heads of his complaint in four articles, as follows, viz:

"1. That the Presbytery of Ohio rejected him in opposition to the decision and intention of the General Assembly. [See Minutes of Ohio Presbytery at Buffalo, about the first of July last.]

2. That the Presbytery passed an unjust and defamatory sentence against said Birch, in an interloquitur of said Presbytery, at the time aforesaid, and in said Birch's absence, on the testimony of the Rev. John McMillan and William McComb, by which the complainant was unjustly subjected to the charge of intemperance; was precluded from applying to another Presbytery according to the intention of the General Assembly; and in the course of which he was treated with insult, and threatened with violence.

3. That the Presbytery have rejected all offers of gospel accommodation with said Birch, whereby he has been subjected to great trouble, and religion exposed to much scandal.

4. That the Presbytery, after subjecting the complainant to long delays, much vexation, and great loss, have passed a corrupt judgment in the case of the Rev. John McMillan, who had in a defamatory manner charged Birch with drunkenness, used unchristian language respecting him, and denied what he had affirmed to James Mahan. [See Nos. 2, 3, 4, of his detailed complaint, and three depositions in the hands of the Presbytery, and for which Birch has a receipt, and which he requires to be produced on the table of the Assembly.] Signed, THOMAS L. BIRCH."

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of Mr. Birch's complaint against the Presbytery of Ohio. The parties being fully heard, the Assembly adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of Mr. Birch's charges agains the Presbytery of Ohio, when, the same being under consideration, on motio it was

*Resolved*, That the first charge against the Presbytery has not been supported.

The second charge being read, it was also

*Resolved*, That this charge has not been supported.

The third charge being read and discussed, it was

*Resolved*, That this charge has not been supported.

The fourth and last charge against the Presbytery being under consideration, a motion was made and seconded, that this charge has not been supported. After considerable discussion, a question was taken to agree to the same, which was determined in the affirmative.

A motion was made and seconded, that it be by this Assembly

*Resolved*, That the Ohio Presbytery have not, on some of the subjects of the fourth charge, acted with the care, impartiality, and tenderness, which have distinguished their other proceedings.

The question to agree to the motion was determined in the negative.

The Assembly, agreeably to the order of the day, proceeded to a free conversation on the general state of religion within the bounds of the General Assembly.

The members were called upon, in the order of the roll, to give such information on this subject as their local situations respectively might enable them to give. After some progress therein, the Assembly adjourned, till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 26*th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The Rev. John B. Patterson, appointed by the Presbytery of Huntingdon, and the Rev. Eliphalet Nott, appointed by the Presbytery of Albany, as commissioners to the Assembly, appeared in the House. Their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats as members.

Mr. Inglis, and Mr. Power, had leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the free conversation on the state of religion, and having gone through the same,

*Resolved*, That Dr. Green, Mr. Lacey, Mr. Templeton, Mr. Backus, and Mr. Nott, be a committee to draught and to report to this house a general statement of the information obtained on this subject.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock*, *P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to choose a person to serve as Trustee of the General Assembly, in the place of Dr. David Jackson, deceased. A ballot being taken, Mr. David Jackson of the First Presbyterian church of Philadelphia, was duly chosen.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly will make no farther change in the Board of Trustees this year.

A representation from the Trustees of the College of New Jersey was laid before the Assembly, in which the said Trustees petition the Assembly to recommend to all the congregations under their care, to take up liberal collections, to aid in rebuilding said College edifice, which has lately been consumed by fire. Whereupon, after deliberation, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That it be, and is hereby recommended to all the congregations, both settled and vacant, under the care of the General Assembly, to endeavour to raise liberal contributions for rebuilding the edifice and replenishing the library of the College of New Jersey. And that it be left to the discretion of the minister and session of each congregation to make the contribution either by subscription, or a collection of the church, or by both. The Presbyteries are to take measures to carry this recommendation into effect, and the sessions to see that the sums collected be forwarded as safely and expeditiously as possible to the Rev. Doctor Rodgers, of New York; the Rev. Dr. Green, Philadelphia; or to Mr. Enos Kelsey, Treasurer of the Trustees of the aforesaid College, at Princeton, in New Jersey.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Chapman, the stated missionary of the General Assembly, be authorized to give an order for the books now in the hands of Messrs. Haights and Hutton, of Albany, and directed to the care of Messrs. Gordon and Evans, of Geneva, and that Mr. Chapman be authorized to defray the expense of transportation out of the sale of said books.

The committee to whom was referred the case of discipline from the church of Westminster, reported. The report being read a second time, a motion was made and seconded to postpone the consideration thereof for the purpose of introducing a substitute which was offered. The question to agree to the postponement was determined in the affirmative. The resolutions proposed as a substitute were then read, considered and amended; and the further consideration thereof was postponed till to-morrow morning.

The Rev. Messrs. Sample, and Watson, Dr. Duffield, and Messrs. Clark, and Byer, obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the members of this Assembly will spend the evening of Saturday next in this church, as a season of special prayer for the revival of religion, and other devout exercises directed to the same object; and that Mr. Irwin, Mr. Cathcart, and Mr. Milledoler, be a committee to make arrangements in regard to the exercises, and designate the persons who shall lead in them.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the case of discipline. The resolutions on the subject, which had been under discussion last evening, were read and further amended, when a motion was carried to postpone the same for the purpose of introducing two resolutions, embracing the whole case, and proposed as a substitute. The said resolutions having been read and amended were adopted, and are as follow:

The session of the church of Westminster, in Jefferson county, state of Tennesseee, having requested the direction of this Assembly in a case of discipline, viz: Whether a man and his wife were admissible to church privileges who had been related to each other, as uncle and niece; that is to say, the woman being sister's daughter to the man's former wife; whereupon the Assembly

*Resolved*, That such marriages as that in question have been determined, both by the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, and by the General Assembly, to be on the one hand not forbidden by the laws of God, and on the other hand to be contrary to the general practice of Protestant churches, and the feelings and opinions of many serious Christians among ourselves, and on that account to be discountenanced; therefore,

*Resolved*, That when such marriages take place, the session of the church where they happen are carefully to consider the case, and, if they think it expedient, to administer such discipline as they may judge to be deserved, for that want of Christian tenderness and forbearance that are incumbent on all the professors of our holy religion, or for violating any municipal law, if this has been done; and then to admit or restore them to good standing in the church. And if the session judge that the state of society is such, where these marriages take place, as that neither the duty of Christian tenderness and forbearance, nor the laws of the State have been violated, they may admit the persons concerned to Christian privileges without censure.

Dr. Green, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Richards, were appointed a committee to designate and appoint persons to supply the pulpits of the delegates appointed this year to attend the General Association of Connecticut.

The committee appointed on the journals of the missionaries reported.

The report not being as full as the Assembly desired, was recommitted.

The Assembly called on the Presbyteries to report on the several articles connected with the missionary business, on which they were required by the last General Assembly to make special reports.

The Presbyteries of Albany, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, Carlisle, Hanover, Winchester, and the Second Presbytery of South Carolina, exhibited written reports; the other Presbyteries represented in this Assembly gave verbal reports: whereupon it was

*Resolved*, That the said reports be committed to Messrs. Hunter, Grier, Lewis, Richards, Nott, Patterson, and McKinley, who were directed to arrange the whole missionary business for the ensuing year, and particularly to select the missionaries, to prescribe their routes, periods of service, and compensation, and to report to this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

Messrs. Grant and Sloan obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 28th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Presbytery of Huntingdon reported to the Assembly their proceedings in the case of Mr. Jackson, a licentiate from the Presbytery of Londonderry, in Ireland; who had passed his trials and spent his period of probation in said Presbytery, agreeably to the rules in that case provided, and been received by the Presbytery, subject however to the ultimate decision of this Assembly.

The Assembly, having heard and examined Mr. Jackson's testimonials, and the proceedings of the Presbytery, and finding them regular and satisfactory,

*Resolved*, That the said Mr. Jackson be, and he hereby is, recognized as a licentiate in good standing.

The Committee on Psalmody reported, and thereupon the Assembly determined as follows:

Whereas, The version of the Psalms made by Dr. Watts, has heretofore been allowed in the congregations under the care of the General Assembly, it is now thought expedient that the Hymns of Dr. Watts be also allowed, and they are accordingly hereby allowed, in such congregations as may think it expedient to use them in public and social worship; and whereas, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, by order of the General Association of Connecticut, has revised the version of the Psalms made by Dr. Watts, and versified a number omitted by him, and has also made a selection of Hymns from various authors, which, together with the Psalms, were intended to furnish a system of Psalmody for the use of churches and families, which system has been revised and recommended by a joint committee of the General Assembly and the General Association of Connecticut heretofore appointed, as well as examined and approved by a committee of this present Assembly:

The said system is hereby cheerfully allowed, in such congregations and churches as may think it for edification to adopt and use the same.

The committee to whom were referred the communications from the General Convention of the regular ministers of the gospel in the state of Vermont reported.

The report being considered and amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

"The committee consider the union and harmony of the Christian Church to be of great importance, and the proposed correspondence to be very desirable, yet the Assembly not having a correct knowledge of the doctrine and discipline of the said Convention, and the churches under their care, the committee are of opinion, that before any permanent intercourse, of the nature proposed, can be formed with said Convention, such knowledge ought to be obtained; and that the said Convention should be requested to transmit to the next General Assembly the principal articles of their faith and the plan of their church government."

*Resolved*, That an attested copy of the above minute be transmitted by the Stated Clerk to the Convention aforesaid.

*Resolved*, That the delegates appointed this year to attend the General Association of Connecticut, transmit to the next General Assembly such information as they may be able to obtain, calculated to direct the said Assembly to the measures proper to be taken in regard to the proposed intercourse.

A communication was received from the Trustees of the General Assembly, proposing the formation of a standing committee for financial purposes, and suggesting several other arrangements for securing and managing the funds.

A motion was thereupon made and seconded, that this Assembly commit the general management of the missionary business to a standing committee, and that an annual missionary sermon be delivered at the times and places of the meetings of the General Assembly, by a minister appointed to the service from year to year.

*Resolved*, That the said motion and communication from the Trustees be committed to Dr. Green, Mr. Backus, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Hazard, and Mr. Bayard, to report thereon to this Assembly.

The committee appointed on the petition of the Synod of Virginia, praying to be divided into three Synods, reported. The report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

It is the opinion of the committee that the said division ought to be made.

They therefore submit the following resolutions, viz:

1. That the Presbyteries of Hanover, Lexington, and Winchester, constitute a Synod, to be known by the name of the Synod of Virginia; that they hold their first meeting at the Presbyterian church at Lexington, in Virginia, on the last Wednesday of September next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. James Waddel, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister who may be present, and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

2. That the Presbyteries of Redstone, Ohio, and Erie, be constituted a Synod, to be known by the name of the Synod of Pittsburgh; that they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian church at Pittsburgh, on the last Wednesday of September next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. James Power, and in case of his absence, by the next senior minister who may be present, and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

3. That the Presbyteries of Transylvania, West Lexington, and Washington, be constituted a Synod, to be known by the name of the Synod of Kentucky; that their first meeting be held in the Presbyterian church in the town of Lexington, in Kentucky, on the second Thursday in October next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. James Welch, and in case of his absence by the next senior minister who may be present, and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

4. That the southern boundary of the Synod of Pittsburgh be, from the mouth of the Scioto, up the Ohio river to the mouth of the Great Kenhawa, thence a line due east, unto the top of the Allegheny mountain; and that the western boundary of the said Synod begin at the mouth of the Scioto, and

thence up the said river to its source, &c.; and that the line between the states of Virginia and Kentucky, be the boundary between those Synods.

Dr. Rodgers obtained leave of absence for Mr. Lasher, (who is sick,) during the remainder of the sessions.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for the solemn services of Saturday evening, made a report, which was approved.

Ordered, That the Clerk furnish the members who are designated to take part in the service with a copy of the report for their direction.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Four o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

On motion, it was

*Resolved,* That Dr. Green, Mr. Irwin, and the Treasurer of the corporation of the General Assembly, be a committee to collect and prepare copies of the printed extracts of the General Assembly from its original to the present year inclusive, at least sufficient to furnish each Presbytery under the care of the Assembly with one complete copy, reprinting the extracts of such years as cannot otherwise be obtained, together with a complete index to each copy; and that they have the books bound and ready to be delivered to the orders of the Presbyteries severally, who are hereby directed to instruct their commissioners to the next General Assembly where they shall be sent.

In order to facilitate the business of the above committee, and diminish expense,

*Resolved,* That the Presbyteries subordinate to the General Assembly, take the most effectual measures to engage all their members to forward, by mail or otherwise, as soon as possible, to the Rev. Dr. Green, at Philadelphia, all such extracts from the proceedings of the General Assembly as they can spare, that the same may be used in completing the edition contemplated.

The case of Mr. Birch was resumed, and after full deliberation it was

*Resolved,* That any Presbytery to whom he may apply be at liberty to receive him agreeably to the regulations of the General Assembly, and may shorten the time of his probation, if they think it advisable and proper; provided that Mr. Birch do not continue to exercise his ministry within the bounds of the Presbytery of Ohio, without the permission of that Presbytery.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 29*th*, 10 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Doctor Elmer resigned his seat in this Assembly, in favour of Mr. Robert Irwin, of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, the alternate commissioner, who, being present, took his seat as a member.

The committee to whom was referred the petition of the Presbytery of Albany, reported. The report, being considered, was adopted, and is as follows:

Your committee are of opinion that the division of the Presbytery ought to take place. But that the Presbyteries ought not to be constituted a Synod, until the Synod of New York and New Jersey shall be consulted on the subject; and therefore submit the following resolutions:

1. That so much of the Presbytery of Albany as lies on the east side of Hudson's River, including the Rev. Messrs. Warford, Bogue, Halsey, and Coe, be constituted a Presbytery, by the name of the Presbytery of Columbia; that they hold their first meeting at the Presbyterian Church in Troy,

on the second Tuesday in September next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Warford, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present; and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

2. That so much of the Presbytery of Albany as lies on the west side of the eastern line of the counties of Otsego and Herkimer, including the Rev. Messrs. Fish, Lindsley, Dodd, Lewis, with the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, late of the Presbytery of New York, and the Rev. Samuel F. Snowden, late of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, be constituted a Presbytery, by the name of the Presbytery of Oneida. That they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian church at Whitesborough, the first Tuesday in September next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Chapman, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present; and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

3. That the remaining part of said Presbytery, lying between the Hudson River, and the eastern line of the counties of Otsego and Herkimer, including the Rev. Messrs. Millar, Hosack, Nott, Bradley, and Sweetman, be constituted a Presbytery, by the name of the Presbytery of Albany. That they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian church at Albany, on the third Tuesday in September next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Alexander Millar, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present; and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

Whereas, the Assembly have this day determined, upon an application from the Presbytery of Albany, that the said Presbytery may be divided into three, and in the investigation of this subject circumstances were stated to exist which led the Assembly to judge such division proper, and perhaps necessary, at this time;

And whereas, doubts arose, whether it was proper for the Assembly to interfere for the purpose of making such division, the proposal not having been first laid before the Synod, as it would establish a precedent which might tend to confusion, and in the end to schism; the Assembly think it expedient to declare, that their decision in this case has been particularly influenced by the pressure of circumstances, and is not to be considered as forming a precedent for future conduct.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas reported, and the book to the end thereof, was approved.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia, reported, that the said records have not been brought forward, and that therefore they have not been able to execute their trust.

Ordered, That the said Synod be careful to send up their minutes to the next General Assembly.

A motion was made and seconded, that the Assembly reconsider the decision of Thursday last, respecting the reference from the session of Westminster. Two-thirds of the members who made that decision, agreeing to reconsider the same, it came again before the House, when the following was agreed upon as a substitute, viz: The Assembly

*Resolved*, That the decision given by the General Assembly in the year 1797, in a case somewhat resembling the present, may be adopted on this occasion.

The decision referred to is as follows:

*Resolved*, That although the Assembly would wish to discountenance imprudent marriages, or such as tend in any way to give uneasiness to serious persons, yet it is their opinion that the marriage referred to is not of such a nature as to render it necessary to exclude the parties from the privileges of the church.

The committee to whom were referred the journals of the missionaries of last year, reported. The report, having been amended, was accepted and is as follows, viz:

Your committee report, that the Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, appointed by the last General Assembly, to itinerate for two months on the peninsula between the Delaware and the Chesapeake Bays, informed the committee, that in consequence of a variety of circumstances which forbade his leaving home, he had not fulfilled his mission; but that he had applied to Dr. Read of the Presbytery of New Castle, who agreed to go on said mission; and who did spend six or seven weeks on the peninsula. Although your committee would not sanction the principle, that a missionary may nominate a substitute to fulfil his mission, yet in the present case they are perfectly satisfied, being fully persuaded of the suitableness of Dr. Read to be employed in that business.

That the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, appointed to itinerate two months in the summer of the year 1800, in the Genessee country, reported, that he had been six weeks on that mission. Your committee read the greater part of Mr. Chapman's journal as a stated missionary to the present time, from which it appears that he is prosecuting his mission with diligence, prudence, and fidelity. His hearers appear frequently to have been tenderly impressed with a sense of the importance of eternal things. Mr. Chapman also states, that he has organized three churches, and that there are hopeful prospects that a number more will shortly be organized. He received forty-five dollars and thirty-two cents, travelled two thousand miles, and preached above one hundred sermons.

That the committee read the journal of the Rev. John Lindsley for the year 1800; when it appeared that he had fulfilled a mission of four months, exclusive of the time he spent in going from his own house to the place from which he was directed to set out, and returning home (for which he has made no charge) during which time he seems to have prosecuted the great end of his mission with fidelity. He baptized eleven children, preached ninety-six times, and received twelve dollars and fifty-cents.

That the committee read Mr. Coe's journal. It appears that he carefully attended to his duty as a missionary; that the people to whom he preached were attentive to what he said, thankful to the Assembly for their care in sending missionaries among them, and that the prospect of usefulness in the country where he laboured is very flattering. He served as a missionary for six weeks, and received three dollars seventy-five and a half cents.

That the committee read the continuation of the Rev. James Hall's journal as a missionary to the Mississippi territory; from which it appears, that he faithfully pursued the end contemplated by his mission. He expresses his desire that missionaries may be sent to that territory by this Assembly. He served on his mission seven months and thirteen days, and received eighty-six dollars.

That the committee read the journal of the Rev. Mr. Grigsby, which states that he travelled through the counties of Accomac, Northampton, &c., and laboured carefully for three months. He received one dollar.

That the committee read the journal of Mr. Peter Fish. He passed through and preached in the county of Oneida and its vicinity. He states that two congregations have lately been organized there; one of Congregationalists, of about thirty members, and one of Baptists of nearly the same number. He appears to have attended to the object of his mission with care and diligence. He received ten dollars and ten cents.

That the committee read the journal of Mr. Robert Chapman, who was missionary to the Genessee country for two months. He appears to have prosecuted his business with care and fidelity; received nineteen dollars and sixty-eight cents.

That the journal of Mr. John Chavis, a black man, licensed by the Presbytery of Lexington, in Virginia, was read in the Assembly. He appears to have executed his mission with great diligence, fidelity, and prudence. He served nine months, and received fifty-eight dollars and sixty-four cents.

Messrs. Lindsley, Logan, and Smith informed the Assembly by letter, that they had it not in their power to fulfil the missions to which they were appointed by last Assembly.

That upon the whole the gentlemen employed as missionaries have, in the opinion of your committee, distinguished themselves by their perseverance, diligence, and fidelity; and made great exertions to spread the knowledge of Jesus Christ and promote the salvation of men, nor have their labours been in vain in the Lord.

The committee have liquidated the accounts of the said missionaries, and stated them thus:

| | | *Months.* | *Days.* | *Pay.* | *Received on Mission.* | *Per advance.* | *Balance due.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rev. Jedediah Chapman, | served | 7½ | | $250 | $45 32 | | $204 68 |
| " John Lindsley, | " | 4 | 8 | 142 21 | 12 50 | | 129 71 |
| " Jonas Coe, | " | 1½ | | 50 | 3 75 | | 46 25 |
| " James Hall, | " | 7 | 13 | 247 75 | 86 | | 161 75 |
| " Benjamin Grigsby, | " | 3 | | 100 | 1 | $33 33 | 65 67 |
| " Peter Fish, | " | 6 | | 200 | 10 10 | | 189 90 |
| " Robert Chapman, | " | 2 | | 66 67 | 19 68 | 33 33 | 13 66 |
| Mr. John Chavis, | " | 9 | | 300 | 58 64 | | 241 36 |
| | | | | $1356 63 | $236 99 | $66 66 | $1052 98 |

The committee appointed to arrange the missionary business for the ensuing year, made a report, and after duly considering the same, the Assembly

*Resolved*, 1. That the Rev. Peter Fish, of the Presbytery of Albany, be appointed a missionary for four months, on the west side of Lake Champlain, between the south end of Lake George and the northern boundary of the state of New York, to set out as soon as convenient.

2. That the Rev. John Lindsley be appointed a missionary for two months, commencing his route in Cayuga county, and proceeding through Onondaga and Oneida counties, as soon as convenient.

3. That the Rev. Aaron Condict be appointed a missionary for two months, to take his course through the Beech Woods, beginning at the River Delaware; to visit the congregation of Nine Partners, the Great Bend of Susquehanna, Deacon Miller's, Owego, the west side of Ovid, Romulus, Washington, and thence to Geneva, to receive further instructions from the stated Missionary.

4. That Mr. James Magraw, a licentiate under the care of the Presbytery of New Castle, be appointed a missionary for two months, to begin his route at Wilkesbarre on the Susquehanna, and proceed to the different settlements between that place and Tioga point.

5. That Doctor Thomas Read, of the Presbytery of New Castle, be appointed a missionary for two months, on the peninsula between the Delaware, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Chesapeake Bay.

6. That the Rev. James Hall, of the Presbytery of Concord, in North Carolina, be appointed a missionary in the country of the Natchez, as heretofore.

7. That Mr. John Chavis be appointed a missionary, for as much of his time as may be convenient, to take his instructions with respect to his routes from the Rev. Messrs. Lacey and Alexander, of the Presbytery of Hanover, in Virginia.

8. That the Rev. James Richards, of the Presbytery of New York, be appointed a missionary for one month, to labour on the frontiers of the Presby-

teries of New York and New Brunswick, in the county of Sussex, in the state of New Jersey, and in the contiguous parts of the state of New York, at his discretion.

9. That the missionaries be allowed thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month for their services, they to account for the moneys they may receive on their mission, and that the Trustees of the Assembly direct the Treasurer to advance one month's pay to each missionary appointed as aforesaid. And to advance one-half a year's salary to the Stated Missionary, besides the amount due to him at this time, agreeably to the contract originally made with him.

The committee further reported, that they have attended with much care and solicitude to the duty of sending missionaries among the Indian, or heathen tribes of America, but have not been able to recommend any persons who are willing to undertake that arduous and important service.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk transmit to each of the missionaries appointed by this Assembly, a certificate of his appointment, which shall serve as his commission.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. Armstrong and Perine, of the Presbytery of New York, be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpits of Mr. Condict and Mr. Richards. That Mr. Grier, and Mr. Arthur, of the Presbytery of New Castle, be a committee to appoint supplies for Doctor Read's pulpit; and that Doctor McCorkle, and Mr. McCrea, of the Presbytery of Concord, be a committee to appoint supplies for Mr. Hall's pulpit, during the time which the gentlemen in whose favour the supplies are granted, shall be employed as missionaries.

The committee appointed to examine the records, and report to the Assembly what Presbyteries have voted in favour of an alteration of the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of the constitution, and what Presbyteries have voted against the proposed alteration, made their report, which was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

That nine Presbyteries have voted in favour of the alteration contemplated, viz: the Presbyteries of Hudson, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, Huntingdon, Ohio, Orange, Winchester, Hanover, and Lexington; and that seven Presbyteries have voted against the alteration, viz: The Presbyteries of New York, Long Island, Carlisle, Baltimore, Albany, New Castle, and the first Presbytery of South Carolina. And consequently that the question is not decided.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries which have not communicated to the General Assembly their opinion, as to the alteration of said article, be careful to send forward the same, in their reports to next Assembly.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 31*st*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee on the agencies reported. The report being read was adopted, and is as follows:

Your committee report, that the Rev. Joseph Clark, since the last General Assembly, has paid into the permanent fund, certain arrears of former subscriptions, as follow, viz:

From the congregation of Bound Brook, $12.00; Cranberry, 4.00; Baskenridge, 3.50; Allentown and Nottingham, 28.00; Westfield, 14.50; Mendam, 18.00; Elizabethtown, 98.00; total, $178.00.

By the printed extracts of last year, it appears that the amount of subscriptions uncollected at that time by Mr. Clark, was $523.25, independently of moneys (amount not known—see extracts page 10,) due from Springfield, Westfield, &c., so that there appears to be now uncollected, $354.25.

Besides the amount at that time due from Springfield, &c., which must still be considered as outstanding, although money has been received from some of those places, as above stated, the Treasurer acknowledges the receipt of the above sum of $178.

From the extracts (page 10) it appears that there remained uncollected, of the subscriptions procured by the Rev. Dr. Green, $1024.80.

The Treasurer acknowledges the receipt of the whole of that sum excepting $80, which are yet outstanding.

Of the balance outstanding last year on Dr. Tennent's lists, the whole has been paid to the Treasurer, except $13.

The following subscriptions, procured since last General Assembly, have been presented to your committee, viz:

From the Rev. Robert Cathcart, subscriptions obtained from the church of Upper West Connegocheague, in addition to former subscriptions, $5; Tom's Creek, 22; Paxton and Derry, 19; Great Cove, 10.32; Germans in Upper West Connegocheague, 57.84—total, $114.16; the whole of which has been paid to the Treasurer.

The Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Swedesborough, $45.66; Woodstown, 37.05; Salem, 138.70; Greenwich, 105.08, whereof uncollected, 20; Bridgetown, 296.60, uncollected, 14; Fairfield, 148.00½, uncollected, 31; Woodbury and Timber Creek, 115, uncollected, 13; Pittsgrove, 107.46, uncollected, 3.50; Deerfield, 189.82, uncollected, 66; scattering subscriptions, 13.50; First Presbyterian church, Philadelphia, (this subscription not finished) 634, uncollected, 160. Total subscriptions, $1830.87½, uncollected, 289.50.

The Treasurer acknowledges the receipt of 1410 dollars from Mr. Irwin.

From the Rev. Dr. Cooper, Upper Congregation Path Valley, £10 2 10½ Millar's Town and its vicinity, £3 0 9; Big Spring, (additional,) £2 5 0; Lewistown, Mifflin county, £7 0 4½; Lower West Connegocheague, (additional) £9 0 11; Williamsport, Maryland, £5 15 6; Sharpsborough £1 3 1½, Hagerstown, £8 5 0; Middle Spring, (additional,) £19 18 7½; Mifflintown and its vicinity, £9; East Kishacoquillas and Dry Valley, £9 15 0; Mr. Samuel Ringold, of Maryland, £1 17 6. Total, £87 4 8—$232.62, whereof he has paid to the Treasurer, $225.22.

The Treasurer has received from Dr. Hunlock Woodruff, of Albany, $495.62, but your committee have not been informed by whom, or where, it has been collected.

The Rev. John Clark, of Hudson Presbytery, has paid into the treasury, $25.37; The congregation of Jamaica, on Long Island, subscribed, $40.50; whereof one dollar is uncollected, and paid into the treasury, $37.25.

From an account received from the Rev. David S. Bogart, it appears that he received on Long Island, at Southampton, $16.02; West Hampton, 8.17; Bridgehampton, 26.90½; Sag Harbour, 35; East Hampton. 33.60; Eastern parish of Aquabogue, 10; Western parish of Aquabogue, 6.33; Mattituck, 7 45½; Cutchogue, 8.23½; Rev. Mr. Hazard's church, 10.64½; Middletown, 2.40; Millar's Place, 8.28; Setauket, 13.76½; The Branch, 13.64; Huntingdon, 20.96½; ditto, South, 11.16½; Sundry persons and places, 22.97½. Total, $255.45. Deducting expenses, &c., 21.93, leaves $233.62. For which the Treasurer's receipt has been produced.

Mr. Bogart states that he travelled three hundred and thirty miles, and that for his time and labour, he neither expects nor wishes any pecuniary compensation.

The Rev. Isaac Lewis handed to the committee a paper containing sub-

subscriptions from the Presbytery of Albany, for $51.88; whereof $2.00 are uncollected.

The Rev. John B. Patterson reports the following subscriptions, viz: At Buffalo Valley, $88.80; Northumberland, 39.85; whereof uncollected, 1.75; Sunbury, 51.45; uncollected, 2.00; Milton, 33.50; Lycoming, 32.85, uncollected, 1.16; Pine Creek and Great Island, 77.50; White Deer, 26.49, uncollected, 14.17; Derry, 22.00, uncollected, 1.00; Mahoning, 25.08, uncollected, 50; Tuscarora, 30.00, uncollected, 4.78; Wyoming, 2.01. Total $429.53; uncollected, 25.36.

Mr. Patterson has produced the Treasurer's receipt for $395.49.

That the Assembly may have a comprehensive view of this subject, the committee think it proper to exhibit the following summary of subscriptions and receipts for the year past, so far as they appear from the documents produced.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Clark received and paid the Treasurer. | These sums were uncollected last year. | 178.00 |
| Dr. Green accounted for with do. | | 944.80 |
| Dr. Tennent do. do. | | 24.00 |

Mr. Cathcart has paid the Treasurer $114.16; Mr. Irwin's amount of subscriptions, 1830.87½; Dr. Cooper's, 232.62; Dr. Hunlock Woodruff paid 495.62; Rev. John Clark, 25.37; Church of Jamaica, Long Island, 40.50; Rev. David S. Bogart, 233.68; John B. Patterson, 424.53; Isaac Lewis, 51.87. Total amount of subscriptions for the year just ended so far as documents appear, $3449.22½.

From which is to be deducted uncollected by Mr. Irwin, $289.50; expenses of do. 34.95½; compensation for do. 46 days, 46.00; Dr. Cooper's expenses, 7.40; compensation for do. 39 days, he having relinquished part, 30.00; Mr. Patterson's expenses, 7.60; compensation for do. 40 days, 40.00; uncollected by Mr. Patterson, 25.36; by Mr. Lewis, 2.00. Total $482.81½. So that there appears a neat amount of $2966.41, to be added to the permanent fund from subscriptions of this year.

Your committee were somewhat embarrassed in determining on a proper compensation for the services of the agents. While they wished on the one hand to give to each agent a *quantum meruit*, they were desirous, on the other, not to make improper deductions from a fund, destined to the purposes of charity, or by prodigal liberality, check the spirit from which they hope for its future increase. They trusted, also, that an allowance as large as might be proper in other cases, would not be expected in this; as the great object is, to promote the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world, to which we are all under peculiar obligations; on a consideration of all the circumstances, they supposed that a dollar for each day spent in the service, by the agents respectively, would be such an allowance as ought to be satisfactory.

Whereas, The Presbytery of Albany were directed by the General Assembly to appoint agents to collect money within their bounds, for the permanent fund of the General Assembly; and whereas, such agents have been appointed by said Presbytery.

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Albany be permitted to pay to each of their agents, out of the moneys which they have or may collect, the sum of one dollar per day, during the time employed in making those collections, and also their necessary expenses.

The committee to whom were referred a communication from the Trustees of the Assembly, and also a proposition for the establishment of a standing committee of missions, reported; and submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted by the Assembly, viz:

1. That a committee be chosen annually by the General Assembly, to be

denominated the Standing Committee of Missions; that the committee shall consist of seven members, of whom four shall be clergymen and three laymen; that a majority of this committee shall be a quorum to do business; that it shall be the duty of this committee to collect, during the recess of the Assembly, all the information in their power relative to the concerns of missions, and missionaries; to digest this information, and report thereon at each meeting of the Assembly; to designate the places where, and to specify the periods during which, the missionaries should be employed; to correspond with them, if necessary, and with all other persons on missionary business; to nominate missionaries to the Assembly, and report the number which the funds will permit to be employed; to hear the reports of the missionaries and make a statement thereon to the Assembly, relative to the diligence, fidelity, and success of the missionaries, the sums due to each, and such parts of their reports as it may be proper for the Assembly to hear in detail; to ascertain annually, whether any money remains with the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, which ought to be used for missionary purposes, agreeably to the last will of James Leslie, deceased; that they also engage a suitable person annually, to preach a missionary sermon on the Monday evening next after the opening of the General Assembly, at which a collection shall be made for the support of missions; and superintend generally, under the direction of the Assembly, the missionary business.

2. That although this standing committee shall be elected annually, yet each committee shall continue in office till the end of the sessions of that Assembly, which succeeds the one by which the said committee was chosen.

3. That this standing committee of missions, in addition to the duties above specified, shall be, and they hereby are, empowered to direct the Trustees of the General Assembly, during the recess of the Assembly, to issue warrants for any sums of money which may become due, in consequence of contracts, appropriations, or assignments of duty made by the Assembly, and for which orders may have not been issued by the Assembly; and on this subject the committee shall report annually to the Assembly.

Whereas, The Trustees of the Assembly have suggested the propriety of this Assembly providing some method of giving early notice to said Trustees of every sum of money paid in to the Treasurer, in consequence of any order or regulation of the General Assembly,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly enforce an order, heretofore given, requiring the Presbyteries to make annual reports to the Assembly of the sums collected within their bounds respectively, and paid into the treasury, and that the Assembly be careful in reporting the result to the Trustees.

But as the Assembly may not be able to obtain punctual returns from their Presbyteries on this subject, they would suggest to the Trustees the propriety of requiring their Treasurer to give duplicate receipts for every sum of money he shall receive as Treasurer, viz: one to the person paying the money, and another to the president of the Corporation; and conceive that such an arrangement will furnish an additional check on the Treasurer's accounts.

By a report from the Presbytery of Lewes, it appeared that a minister, heretofore a member of that Presbytery, had been declared to be no longer a member thereof; and as the Assembly were informed, is considered by them as divested of the ministerial office, and this without deposition, suspension, or censure; wherefore,

*Resolved*, That it is a principle of this Church, that no minister of the gospel can be regularly divested of his office except by a course of discipline, terminating in his deposition. That if any minister, by providential circumstances, become incapable of exercising his ministerial functions, or is called to suspend them, or to exercise them only occasionally, he is still to be considered as possessing the ministerial character and privileges; and his brethren of the Presbytery are to inspect his conduct; and while they treat him with due tenderness and sympathy, they are to be careful that he do not neglect his ministerial duty, beyond what his circumstances render unavoidable.

That if any minister of the gospel, through a worldly spirit, a disrelish for the duties of his office, or any other criminal motive, become negligent or careless, he is by no means to be suffered to pursue this course, so as at length to be permitted to lay aside the ministry without censure; because this would be to encourage a disregard of the most solemn obligations, by opening a way to escape from them with impunity.

But in all such cases Presbyteries are seasonably to use the means and pursue the methods pointed out in the word of God and the rules of this Church, to recall their offending brother to a sense of duty; and if all their endeavours be ineffectual, they are at length regularly to exclude or depose him from his office.

If any cases or questions relative to this subject arise in Presbyteries, which are not contemplated by the provisions of this rule, such cases or questions should be referred to the General Assembly for a special decision.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Agreeably to the decision of the forenoon, the Assembly proceeded to elect seven persons to be a standing committee of missions, when the Rev. Dr. Green, the Rev. Messrs. John B. Linn, Jacob J. Janeway, and Philip Milledoler, Dr. Elias Boudinot, Messrs. Robert Smith and Ebenezer Hazard, were duly chosen.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey reported, and the book was approved to page 152 inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia reported, and the same were approved to page 222 inclusive.

Whereas, An invoice of books suitable for the purposes of this Assembly, amounting to £50 14 10 sterling, has been laid upon the table, and may be purchased, in whole or in part, at first cost and charges.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be desired to purchase the said books, or such part of them, or of any other books, as the state of their funds will admit, consistently with the appropriations already made, and that they take proper measures, in conjunction with the stated committee of missions, to have the books above mentioned, and those received from Mr. Robert Aitken, together with such as shall be received from Mr. Cornelius Davis of New York, properly distributed.

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Ohio be directed to endeavour to send a missionary for two months, to Marietta, and that the said missionary report to next Assembly, and be paid out of the funds of the Assembly, at the same rate as the other missionaries.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to compile a Catechism for the use of children and other persons; that they prepare and lay a draught thereof before the next General Assembly, to the intent that if the same shall be approved, it may be printed and recommended to the use of churches and families.

*Resolved*, That the committee, to be appointed as aforesaid, receive a reasonable compensation for their trouble, out of the sale of the catechism, or other funds of the General Assembly.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Dr. Tennent, Mr. Irwin, and Mr. Milledoler, be a committee for the purpose aforesaid.

The committee appointed to draw up the result of the information received of the general state of religion within the limits of the General Assembly, reported. The report being read, and amended, was adopted as the act of the Assembly, and is as follows:

The Assembly having heard from each of their members a circumstantial account of the state of religion in those places to which his observation had extended, are happy to state as the result, that there appears to be cause of mutual congratulation.

Though vice and immorality still too much abound, and though in some of our churches lukewarmness and formality prevail, yet in general, appearances are more favourable than usual; the influence of Christianity, during the last year, appears to have been progressive; and in many places the ordinances of the gospel have been attended with very extraordinary success. From the east, from the west, from the north, and from the south, the most pleasing intelligence has been received.

With joy have the Assembly heard the glad tidings of the outpouring of the Divine Spirit, and of times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Revivals, of a more or less general nature, have taken place in many of our Presbyteries. The pious have been quickened, the daring arrested, the haughty humbled, and many, once thoughtless sinners, have been added to the church.

In some parts of the states of Virginia and North Carolina, the Spirit of God has, we trust, been poured out in an extraordinary manner; and by accounts received from Kentucky and Tennessee, the unusual work there, of which the Assembly have been heretofore informed, appears, during the last year, to have been progressive. Doubtful as the nature of the revival there first appeared, from the very singular circumstances that attended it, the Assembly do exceedingly rejoice, that in its progress, abundant evidence has been given, that its author is God, and its effects highly desirable.

The aspect of an extensive country has been changed from levity to seriousness; scoffers have been silenced, and thousands convinced "of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment" to come. In these things the Assembly trace the footsteps of Jehovah, and recognize the operation of his promised Spirit.

Though in some of the middle and southern Presbyteries, appearances are not so favourable, yet even from these, the Assembly are happy to learn, that in many churches there is an increasing respect for the institutions of religion; and in some, a hopeful attention to its important concerns.

The influence of that vain philosophy which has spread its infection through many of our cities, and even insinuated itself into the remote parts of our country, corrupting society, and poisoning the very principles of moral action, has been greatly diminished.

Infidelity, which a few years since threatened, by its artful seductions, to undermine the foundations of virtue, and by its open assaults, to break down the barriers of religion, is now seldom heard of, in many of the congregations within our bounds. Some of its champions have been arrested by sovereign grace, and humbled at the foot of Immanuel's cross; conquered by that same Jesus whom they once despised and insulted, they now hail him as their King, and shine among the living members of his church.

Many of their companions, awed by these conquests, have retired from public view, and hid themselves in silence. Thus while the enemy was coming in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord lifted up a standard against him. The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice, but thou art mightier than they.

From the frontiers the Assembly have received accounts at once pleasing and animating. Our missionaries have been received with much respect, and their ministrations have been attended with seriousness. A cordial thankfulness for their labours, and earnest desire that further aid may be afforded, have been expressed by most of the settlements to which they have been sent. The prospect of the speedy conversion of the Indian tribes appears to be increasing; and the Assembly cannot but hope that the time is not far distant, when the wilderness on our borders shall bud and blossom as the rose; when the cottage of the pagan shall be gladdened by the reception of the gospel, and the wandering and warlike savage shall lay the implements of his cruelty at the feet of Jesus. Delightful period! when sinners shall flock to the Saviour as clouds, and as doves to their windows! when an innumerable multitude, gathered from among all nations, shall sing redeeming love, and triumph in the hope of a happy immortality! When the church shall "look forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners! When the righteousness thereof shall go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth; and when all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God!" Such shall be the coming of Christ and success of his gospel. "Even so come, Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

Ordered, That Dr. Green be allowed forty dollars for his services as Stated Clerk, and ten dollars for an index he has made to the extracts of the Assembly.

Ordered, That Dr. Green, Mr. Milledoler, and Mr. Irwin, be a committee to select such parts of the minutes of the present Assembly as they may judge proper for publication, that the Permanent Clerk make a copy thereof, and have fifteen hundred copies thereof printed and distributed, according to the directions given for that purpose during the present session.

The Assembly having found, by the experience of several years past, that the business to which they are regularly called to attend is so greatly increased, that the sessions are unavoidably protracted to a much greater length than formerly, judged it expedient that the Presbyteries should be, and they are hereby informed, that their commissioners should attend with the expectation that the sessions will be of two weeks' continuance, and that arrangements should be made accordingly.

*Resolved*, That the subject of altering the Constitution, recommended to the attention of this Assembly by the last, be deferred; and that it be recommended to the consideration of the next Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the agents appointed last year to solicit donations for the Permanent Fund of the General Assembly, who have not reported, be careful to report to the next General Assembly; and that those who have heretofore received appointments as agents, continue to prosecute the object of their appointment at discretion, through the ensuing year, and report to the next Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Read be appointed an additional agent for the purpose aforesaid; and that he apply to those parts in the Presbyteries of New Castle and Lewes, where subscriptions have not been made, and elsewhere at his discretion; and report to the next Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be, and they hereby are, authorized to reduce, at their discretion, the price of the remaining copies of the Confession of Faith, &c., belonging to the General Assembly.

The janitor, John Lauder, presented his bill, amounting to twenty-eight dollars and fifty cents.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*June* 1*st*, 6 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read, and the whole minutes from the beginning of the sessions were revised.

*Resolved*, That the Stated and Permanent Clerks be a committee to examine the records of the General Assembly, and collate the several articles on which the Presbyteries have from time to time been ordered to make reports to the General Assembly, and to present to the Assembly of next year a general regulation, proper to be adopted on the subject.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Whereupon the Moderator dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution, and concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1802.

### SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany. No report. | | | | |
| Hudson. No report. | | | | |
| Long Island. No report. | | | | |
| New York, | 16 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| New Brunswick, | 15 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| | | SYNOD OF VIRGINIA. | | |
| Hanover, | 11 | | 2 | 14 |
| Lexington, | 10 | 2 | | 9 |
| Winchester, | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Redstone, | 12 | | 2 | 23 |
| Ohio, | 16 | | 3 | 27 |
| Erie, | 5 | | | |
| Washington, | 10 | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| Transylvania. No report. | | | | |
| Western Lexington. No report. | | | | |
| | | SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA. | | |
| Philadelphia, | 16 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| New Castle, | 12 | 3 | 6 | 14 |
| Carlisle, | 14 | 5 | 7 | 17 |
| Baltimore, | 5 | 4 | | 5 |
| Lewes. No report. | | | | |
| Huntingdon. No report. | | | | |
| | | SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS. | | |
| Orange. No report. | | | | |
| Abingdon, | 2 | 4 | | 15 |
| 1st South Carolina, | 7 | 3 | 3 | 18 |
| Concord, | 8 | 4 | 1 | 19 |
| Hopewell, | 3 | 1 | 1 | 16 |
| Union. No report. | | | | |
| 2d South Carolina, | 7 | 2 | | 13 |
| Greenville, | 6 | 1 | | 1 |
| Total, | 181 | 43 | 34 | 102 |

DEATHS.—In the Presbytery of New York, the Rev. Samuel Smith died, October 10th, 1801; in the Presbytery of Carlisle, the Rev. Thomas McPherrin died, February 4th, 1802

# 1803.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 19*th*, 1803.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. Dr. Roe, the Moderator of last Assembly, with a sermon from Psalm cii. 16 : "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory."

After prayer the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following persons were appointed, and attended as commissioners to Assembly, viz :

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Bethuel Dodd.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Simon Hosack; Mr. Isaac Hutton, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Aaron J. Booge.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. John Clark; Mr. Nathan Douglass, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Doctors Alexander McWhorter and Azel Roe, and the Rev. Asa Hillyer, and Rev. Samuel Miller; Messrs. Henry Rutgers, John Murray, Isaac Allen, and Nathaniel Little, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Joshua Hart, and Rev. Lyman Beecher; Mr. Nathaniel Hand, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Dr. John Woodhull, Rev. James F. Armstrong, and Rev. Robert Finley; Messrs. John Bayard, Nathaniel Burrowes, and David Bishop, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Dr. Samuel Blair, Rev. Uriah Du Bois, and Rev. John B. Linn; Messrs. William Haslet, and Joel Fithian, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Nathan Grier, and Rev. John E. Latta; Mr. George McIlvaine, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, Rev. Samuel Waugh, and Rev. Robert Cathcart; Messrs. James McClean, and Matthew Dill, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. John Brackenridge; Mr. James Irwin, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—The Rev. John Johnson; Mr. William Whitely, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. Henry R. Wilson.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. William Hill; Mr. Lewis Stevens, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. William Speer.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. John McMillan, Rev. Thomas Marques, and Rev. James Hughes.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. Archibald Alexander.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST LEXINGTON—The Rev. James Welsh.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. James Sattersfield.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—The Rev. William Paisley.

PRESBYTERY OF UNION—The Rev. Gideon Blackburn.

PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—The Rev. James Hall.

SECOND PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—The Rev. James Gilliland.

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, and the Rev. Asahel Hooker, appeared in the Assembly, and exhibited a certificate of their appointment as delegates to this Assembly from the General Association of Connecticut.

The certificate being read and approved, they took their seats in the Assembly agreeably to their appointment.

The Rev. James Hall was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart, Temporary Clerk.

The Rev. Drs. Woodhull and Blair, and the Rev. Messrs. Hosack, Hillyer, Welsh, Alexander, Waugh, Gilliland, McMillan, and Blackburn; with Messrs. Bayard, McClean, Rutgers, and Stevens, elders, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

The Assembly proceeded to read the minutes of last Assembly, and after some progress therein,

Adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 20*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The Rev. William Williamson, of the Presbytery of Winchester; and Mr. Nathaniel Little, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of New York, appeared in the house. Their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly resumed and finished the reading of the minutes of last General Assembly.

Dr. Cooper and Mr. Hill were appointed a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

Dr. Woodhull and Dr. Dwight, to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

Dr. Roe and Mr. Hutton, to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

Mr. Latta and Mr. Du Bois, to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Hughes and Mr. Williamson, to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

Dr. McWhorter and Mr. Alexander, to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

And the said committees were directed to report to this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

The Assembly called on the Presbyteries which have not reported, agreeably to order, on the subject of the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of the constitution, to exhibit their reports; whereupon,

The Presbyteries of Concord and of Union, reported, That in their opinion, the alteration proposed *ought* to be made; and that, on their part and behalf, they empower the General Assembly to change the words *standing rules*, into constitutional rules.

The Presbytery of Lewes reported, That in their opinion, the change ought *not* to be made.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries which have not yet reported on this subject, be careful to send forward their reports to the next General Assembly.

The Presbyteries which have not exhibited histories of their respective Presbyteries, agreeably to the order of Assembly in the year 1800, were called upon to produce the same; when a member of the Presbytery of New York laid upon the table an historical account of that Presbytery. The other Presbyteries were not ready to report, but appeared generally to have paid some attention to the subject. The Assembly therefore enjoined it on the Presbyteries which have not completed their historical collections, to take the most prompt and effectual measures to finish the same, and forward them to the next General Assembly. Historical collections have been received from the Presbyteries of New York, New Brunswick, Ohio, Carlisle, Redstone, and the Second Presbytery of South Carolina. All the other Presbyteries subordinate to the General Assembly are deficient, and implicated in the above order.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The Asssembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. David Bishop obtained leave of absence, from and after this day, during the remainder of the sessions.

Agreeably to the order of last Assembly, Dr. Rodgers sent forward to the Stated Clerk, certain records of the original Presbytery of Philadelphia, and other important papers referred to in the order.

Pursuant to orders given by several former Assemblies, the Synod of the Carolinas reported, That in their opinion, the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom will be most effectually promoted by the said Synod continuing to conduct the missionary business in their vicinity, at least for the ensuing year.

The Synod further reported, That they have collected and have in hand, a considerable sum of money for missionary purposes; and requested that they may be permitted to apply the same toward the support of missionaries, to be sent to the Mississippi Territory, if such missionaries can be obtained.

*Resolved*, That the Synod of the Carolinas be authorized and requested to continue to conduct, with their wonted zeal and diligence, the missionary business on their frontiers and elsewhere, at discretion, and report to next Assembly.

*Resolved*, also, that the part of the report of the Synod of the Carolinas which respects the appropriation of certain moneys in their hands, be referred to the standing Committee of Missions.

A letter was read from the Presbytery of West Lexington, recommending the Rev. William Robinson as a missionary for the ensuing year, and suggesting the propriety of his being employed for six months on the north-west side of the Ohio, within the limits of the Synod of Kentucky.

*Resolved*, That the said letter be referred to the standing Committee of Missions.

The Synod of Kentucky exhibited their report, which was read and accepted, and is as follows, viz:

The Synod have divided the Presbytery of Transylvania into two Presbyteries, in consequence of which they consist of four Presbyteries, as follows:

1. The Presbytery of West Lexington, consisting of eleven ministers, namely: James Crawford, Isaac Tull, James Blythe, James Welsh, Joseph P. Howe, Samuel Shannon, Robert Marshall, William Robinson, Barton W. Stone, Samuel Rannels, and John Lyle. *Licentiates*—Andrew Steel, Robert Stuart.

2. The Presbytery of Washington, consisting of seven ministers, namely: James Kemper, John E. Finley, John P. Campbell, Richard W. Neman, John Dunlavy, John Thompson, and Matthew G. Wallace.

3. The Presbytery of Transylvania, consisting of eight ministers, namely: David Rice, William Mahon, Archibald Cameron, Samuel Finley, Matthew Houston, John Howe, James Vance, and Samuel Robinson.

4. The Presbytery of Cumberland, consisting of eleven ministers, namely: Thomas Craighead, Terah Templin, Jamet Balch, James McGready, William Hodge, John Bowman, William McGee, John Rankin, Samuel Donald, Samuel Macadow, and Jeremiah Abel.

The Synod further reported, they were unable to make a return of ministerial charges and vacancies, for want of the records of Presbyteries, and on account of the absence of distant members, and other circumstances. The Synod also state, that the field for missionary labours on their frontier, is so extensive and promising, that the Synod find themselves inadequate to the demand. They therefore pray the Assembly to take the business under their own special care and direction.

The Synod of the Carolinas not having sent forward their report, the Assembly agreed to hear the duplicate reports of certain Presbyteries belonging to that Synod. Accordingly, the reports of the Presbyteries of Orange, Union, Concord, and Abingdon, were read and ordered to be filed.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Synod of New York and New Jersey exhibited their report, which was read, accepted, and is as follows:

The Synod consists of seven Presbyteries, viz:—1. The Presbytery of Albany. 2. The Presbytery of Oneida. 3. The Presbytery of Hudson. 4. The Presbytery of Long Island.

From these Presbyteries the Synod have had no recent reports, and can give no statement of their situation.

5. The Presbytery of Columbia; which consists of three ministers, each having a pastoral charge—and six vacancies, five of which are able to support a pastor each, and one is not able. See report No. 1.

6. The Presbytery of New York, which consists of twenty-three ministers; of whom only sixteen have pastoral charges. The Presbytery has four licentiates under their care, and five vacant churches, each able to support a pastor. See reports Nos. 2 and 3.

7. The Presbytery of New Brunswick, which consists of eighteen ministers, of whom fourteen have pastoral charges, one is President of the College of New Jersey, and the rest have no charges. This Presbytery has under its care one licentiate, and nine vacancies, which in a united capacity are able to support four stated ministers. See reports Nos. 4 and 5.

Whereas, It appears that the Synod were obliged to send forward the above report in an imperfect state, because certain Presbyteries belonging to the Synod, had not furnished recent reports, and as reports from these Presbyteries to the General Assembly were presented, they were read, and ordered to be filed among the papers of the Assembly.

The Synod of Philadelphia presented their report, which being read, was accepted, and is as follows:

This Synod consists of six Presbyteries, viz:

1. The Presbytery of Philadelphia which contains seventeen ministers, viz: The Rev. Dr. William M. Tennent, pastor of Abington, Norriton, and New Providence; Rev. Ashbel Green, co-pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Mr. James Boyd, pastor of Newtown and Bensalem; Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Neshaminy; Rev. John Davenport, Deerfield; Rev. Philip Milledoler, pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Ethan Osborn, Fairfield; Rev. Uriah Du Bois, pastor of Deep Run and Tinicum; Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, co-pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. John B. Linn, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Robert Russel, Allen's Township; Rev. Thomas Picton, Woodbury and Timber Creek; Rev. George Potts, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. William Latta, Great Valley and Charleston; Rev. David Edwards, Penn's Neck and Alloway's Creek; the Rev. Dr. Samuel Blair, and the Rev. Abijah Davis, without pastoral charge.

*Licentiate*—Mr. John Jones. *Vacancies*—Cape May and Pitts Grove, each able to support a pastor; Bridgeton and Greenwich, able in conjunction to support a minister; Millville, not able.

2. The Presbytery of New Castle, which consists of fifteen ministers, namely: The Rev. Dr. Thomas Read, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. William McKennan, Red Clay Creek; Rev. Colin McFarquhar, Donegal; Rev. Nathaniel W. Sample, Lancaster, Leacock, and Middle Octorara; Rev. George Luckey, Centre and Bethel; Rev. Nathan Grier, Forks of Brandywine; Rev. William Arthur, Pequea; Rev. Samuel Martin, Chanceford and Slateridge; Rev. John Collins, St. George's; Rev. Francis A. Latta, First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. John E. Latta, New Castle and Christiana Bridge; Rev. Thomas Grier, Middleton and Lower Brandywine; Rev. Alexander Mitchell, Rev. Francis Hindman, and Rev. Samuel Leacock, without pastoral charges. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Waugh, Williamson, Hood, Magraw, and Cummings. *Vacancies*—Upper Octorara, Fagg's Manor, New London, West Nottingham, Rock, Chesnut Level, and Little Britain, united; Drawyers and Middleton, (Delaware,) united, able to support a pastor; Head of Christiana, White Clay Creek, Pencader, Deer Creek, and Chatham, not able to support a pastor.

3. The Presbytery of Carlisle, which consists of nineteen ministers, namely: the Rev. Dr. Charles Nesbit, President of Dickinson College; Rev. Dr. John King, pastor of Upper West Connegocheague; Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, Carlisle; Rev. John Linn, Sherman's Valley; Rev. Samuel Waugh, Silver Spring and Monaghan; Rev. James Snodgrass, Hanover; Rev. William Paxton, Lower Marsh Creek; Rev. Robert Cathcart, York and Hopewell; Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, Harrisburgh; Rev. David Denny, Chambersburgh; Rev. Francis Herron, Rocky Spring; Rev. Patrick Davidson, Tom's Creek and Piney Creek; Rev. Joshua Williams, Big Spring; Rev. David McConnaughy, Upper Marsh Creek and Great Connewago; Rev. Robert Kennedy, East and West Connegocheague; Rev. Amos A. McGinley, Upper and Lower Path Valley. The Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, Rev. John Slemons, Rev. Daniel Jones, without pastoral charges. *Licentiates*—Messrs. James Graham, James Adair, Joseph Brady, John Moody. *Vacancies*—Middle Spring, Paxton, and Derry, united; Tuscarora and Falling waters, united; Sherman's Creek and Mouth of Juniata, united, able to support a pastor. Bedford, Williamsport, Hagerstown, and Great Cove, not able.

4. The Presbytery of Baltimore, which consists of eight ministers, namely: the Rev. Dr. James Muir, pastor at Alexandria; Rev. Stephen Bloomer Balch, Georgetown; Rev. Enoch Matson, Bermuda; Rev. James Inglis, Baltimore; Rev. David Wyley, Rev. Samuel Knox, Rev. John Brackenridge, Rev. William Maffit, without pastoral charge. *Vacancies*—Captain John, Seneca, and Difficult, united, able to support a pastor; city of Washington, Bladensburgh, and Frederictown, not able.

5. The Presbytery of Lewes, which consists of four ministers, viz: the Rev. Samuel McMasters, pastor of Snow Hill, Pitts Creek, and Rehoboth; Rev. John Burton, Lewistown, Cool Spring, and Indian River; Rev. John Johnson, Murderkill; Rev. John B. Slemons, Monokin and Wicomico. *Licentiate*—Mr. James Laird. *Vacancies*—Buckingham, Queponco, and Blackwater, united, able to support a pastor; Broad Creek, Vienna, Duck Creek, Queen Anns, and St. John, not able.

6. The Presbytery of Huntingdon, which consists of seventeen ministers, namely: The Rev. Matthew Stevens, pastor of Shaver's Creek; Rev. James Johnson, East Kishacoquillas, and Dry Valley; Rev. John Johnson, Huntingdon, and Hartslog; Rev. Hugh Morrison, Northumberland, and Sunbury; Rev. John Bryson, Chillisquaque, and Warrior's Run; Rev. Isaac Grier,

Pine Creek and Great Island; Rev. Samuel Bryson, Warrior's Mark and Sinking Valley; Rev. John B. Patterson, Derry and Mahoning; Rev. Alexader McIlvaine, Upper Tuscarora; Rev. John Coulter, Lower Tuscarora; Rev. William Stuart, Sinking Creek, Spring Creek, and Penn's Creek; Rev. Matthew Brown, Mifflin, and Lost Creek; Rev. Henry R. Wilson, Bellefont and Lick Run; Rev. John Hodge, Rev. Hugh Magill, Rev. David Bard, Rev. Asa Dunham, without pastoral charge. *Licentiate*—Mr. William Jackson. *Vacancies*—Lewistown, Wayne, Buffalo, White Deer, West Kishacoquillas, Hare's Valley, Shirleysburgh, Frankstown, Millerstown, and Lycoming, none of which are unable to support a pastor, in a separate state.

The standing Committee of Missions appeared before the Assembly, and made a report, stating, that the committee have sent a circular letter to each Presbytery belonging to the General Assembly, excepting those of the Synods who conduct the missionary business, in a separate capacity; in which letter they solicit information, respecting persons proper to be employed as missionaries, the most promising places for their employment, and other subjects connected with the business. That they have opened a correspondence with sundry missionary societies, both in Europe and America, for the purpose of receiving and communicating information on the missionary business; that, in pursuance of authority given them by last Assembly, they have liquidated certain accounts, and directed the Trustees to grant warrants for the payment of several sums of money, amounting to ninety-eighty dollars and seventy cents. That they have read the reports of certain missionaries, employed by last Assembly, viz: those of Messrs. Jedediah Chapman, Lindsley, Richards, Magraw, and Chavis; (and the committee presented to the Assembly an abstract of said reports;) that they have adjusted the accounts of the missionaries, whose reports have been received; (and a detailed account of the sum due to each was read.) The committee close their report by submitting to the house, some principles respecting the missionaries who may hereafter be sent out by the Assembly.

That the Assembly may avail itself of the information and suggestions of this report, it was

*Resolved*, That the same be referred to a special committee of the Assembly, with instructions to present to the house a detail of such articles as may demand the further consideration and agency of the Assembly.

Messrs. Hillyer, Finley, and Armstrong, were accordingly appointed a committee for the purpose aforesaid.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported. The report being considered, the records were approved to page 241, inclusive.

A communication was received from the Presbytery of Erie, praying that Bibles and other pious books may be sent into the bounds of that Presbytery, and placed into the hands of certain persons, to the intent that they may be employed as a circulating library, for the spiritual edification of the numerous poor and ignorant persons in that place, who are perishing for lack of knowledge. On motion, it was

*Resolved*, That the same be referred to the standing Committee of Missions.

A letter from the Presbytery of Union was brought in and read, requesting that the said Presbytery may be under the General Assembly in missionary business, and that missionaries and books may be sent to the frontier settlements embraced by that Presbytery.

The consideration of this letter was deferred till Monday next.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 10 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d*, 10 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

A communication was received from the Presbytery of Oneida. The part thereof which respects the distribution of religious books, was referred to the standing Committee of Missions.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the letter from the Presbytery of Union. After some deliberation thereon, the first petition therein contained was withdrawn; and the latter part, requesting missionary assistance, was referred to the standing Committee of Missions.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey reported, and the records were approved to page 161, inclusive.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly, with such of the citizens as may choose to join with them, will spend a part of the next Thursday evening in this church, in prayer for the revival of religion, and in other religious exercises directed to the same object.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Blair, Messrs. Hughes, Miller, and Bayard, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and designate the persons who shall lead in the exercises.

The Assembly called on the Presbyteries to make the annual reports required to be made by them on the missionary business. On inquiry it appeared, that the Presbyteries, in general, conceiving that the whole missionary business had been entrusted to the standing Committee of Missions, had given to that body such information on the subject as would otherwise have been transmitted to this Assembly. The Assembly accepted the apology of the Presbyteries, and approved their conduct, in making their communications in manner aforesaid, and the Assembly

Ordered, That the Presbyteries, in future, report on this subject to the Committee of Missions *only;* and make their reports so early as to enable the said committee to avail themselves of the information, and present the result to the General Assembly from year to year.

The committee appointed by the last General Assembly, to make a collection of the printed extracts, to cause such numbers as were wanting to be reprinted, and to have fifty copies, with an index, bound and ready to be delivered to the order of the several Presbyteries, under the care of the Assembly, reported

That they have given a careful attention to the subject of their appointment; that all the extracts they were able to obtain from the Presbyteries, were about fifteen copies, forwarded by the Presbytery of Carlisle; that they have caused the deficient numbers to be reprinted, and will have fifty complete copies at the disposal of the Assembly, on Thursday next.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas reported, and the records were approved.

It appeared upon inquiry, that the Synods erected by the last General Assembly met, and were organized agreeably to the constitution.

Mr. David Bishop, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, having resigned his seat in this Assembly, and obtained leave of absence, on Friday last, Mr. Benjamin Smith, a ruling elder, appointed by that Presbytery as an alternate commissioner, appeared in the Assembly, and requested to be received as a commissioner, in Mr. Bishop's place. The request was granted, and Mr. Smith took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

The Assembly called on the Presbyteries, which are required to make annual collections for missionary purposes, to report how far they have complied with the orders of the General Assembly on this subject. It appeared, in consequence, that the Presbyteries of Oneida, Columbia, Albany, Hudson, New York, Long Island, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, and Carlisle, have substantially done their duty in reference to this collection. The Presbyteries of Baltimore, New Castle, Huntingdon, and Lewes, have not made the collection.

Ordered, That these Presbyteries take the most prudent and effectual measures to raise in their churches, and forward to the Treasurer of the Assembly, an annual collection, (in common with other Presbyteries,) to be applied to missionary purposes.

Ordered, That the commissioners to this Assembly, from the Presbyteries which have failed to make the collection, lay a copy of the foregoing minute before their Presbyteries respectively.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries in future, agreeably to orders heretofore given, be careful to report to the Assembly from year to year, the names of the congregations within their bounds respectively, which make this collection, and the specific sum paid by each.

The delegates from the General Assembly to the last General Association of Connecticut, reported:—That they attended during the sessions of the Association, were treated with great respect and cordiality by that body, and were much pleased with the attention to business, and spirit of harmony which prevailed among them; that the Association have formed a plan of intercourse with the General Convention of the Clergy of the state of Vermont, similar to that which subsists between the Association and this Assembly; that the delegates observed with great pleasure, the laudable attention given by the Association to the missionary business, their growing success therein, and the flourishing state of their funds for that purpose; that the Association have taken measures for obtaining a charter of incorporation, for the aid and security of their missionary funds; and that the general state of religion within their limits appeared on the whole, to be favourable.

The delegates laid on the table a copy of the Plan of Correspondence between the General Association and the General Convention of the Clergy of the state of Vermont.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh reported, and the same were approved.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Agreeably to a nomination made last evening, the Assembly proceeded to elect their delegates to the General Association of Connecticut; to meet at the house of the Rev. Stephen W. Stebbins, in Stratford, the third Tuesday of June next.

A ballot being taken, it appeared that the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, the Rev. Dr. Azel Roe, and the Rev. Aaron Condict, were duly elected.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk furnish the said delegates with an attested copy of this record, which shall serve as their commission.

*Resolved*, That the delegates chosen as aforesaid receive the like compensation as those of last year.

Agreeably to an appointment made by the standing Committee of Missions, the Rev. Henry Kollock, of the Presbytery of New York, delivered last evening, in the second Presbyterian church in this city, a missionary sermon from John iii. 30: "He must increase."

*Resolved*, That the said committee be directed to present the thanks of this Assembly to Mr. Kollock for his sermon, and to request a copy thereof for publication.

*Resolved*, That the committee superintend the printing of a sufficient number of copies of the said sermon, together with such an appendix as they shall judge proper, to the intent that they may be circulated and sold, and the profits applied to missionary purposes.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to a free conversation on the general state of religion within their bounds. In order that the result may be collected, and laid before the Assembly,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Miller, Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Welsh, be a committee to take notes of the information as it shall be given to the Assembly; to collect the same into a general and connected report, and lay it before the Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

The members of the Assembly being called, in the order of the roll, communicated such information on the general state of religion as their local circumstances enabled them to give. After making some progress in this interesting business, the Assembly

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-after 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Dubois requested leave to resign his seat in the Assembly in favour of the Rev. George Potts, mentioned in his commission as an alternate commissioner. The request was granted, and Mr. Potts being present, took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

The Assembly resumed the free conversation on the general state of religion, and finished the same. They received pretty full, and in general very pleasing accounts on this subject from all the Presbyteries represented in Assembly; and were not a little gratified by some interesting details given by the delegates from the General Association of Connecticut, respecting the state of religion in that State, and the vicinity thereof.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Nathan Grier requested leave to resign his seat in the Assembly in favour of Mr. Thomas Grier, appointed by the Presbytery of New Castle as an alternate commissioner, to serve in the absence of Mr. Nathan Grier. The request was granted; and the Rev. Thomas Grier being present, took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

A petition to the Assembly from the Rev. Thomas L. Birch, a foreign minister, was brought in and read. In this petition, Mr. Birch states, that in pursuance of permission given by the last General Assembly, he applied to the Presbytery of Huntingdon to be received on trials, agreeably to the standing regulation respecting the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates; that the said Presbytery refused to receive him, agreeably to his request, and gave as their reason, that certain reports affecting Mr. Birch's moral character, had been circulated within the bounds of the Presbytery of Ohio, and were sanctioned by the minutes of this Presbytery. Mr. Birch therefore applied to the Assembly, and prayed for redress.

Mr. Birch was heard in support of his petition; and the members of the Presbytery present were heard in explanation and defence of their decision, in rejecting Mr. Birch.

The Assembly then proceeded to the consideration of Mr. Birch's petition; when a motion was made and seconded, that it be

*Resolved*, That as the last Assembly had fully considered the reports, in the Presbytery of Ohio, referred to in the records of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, and declared that these should be no bar to the reception of Mr. Birch by any Presbytery, the Presbytery of Huntingdon acted improperly in rejecting him on that ground.

After some discussion, the farther consideration of this subject was deferred till the afternoon.

The Assembly took into consideration the subject of electing persons to be Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, agreeably to the provision contained in the charter of incorporation. Having read and considered the regulations in this case made and provided by the General Assembly of the year 1801, it was

*Resolved*, That the Assembly will this year hold an election for the purpose of electing Trustees, and that the said election be the order for Friday next, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of Mr. Birch's petition.

The resolution moved in the forenoon, being under consideration, a motion was made and carried to postpone the same, in order to introduce the following as a substitute, viz:

*Resolved*, That as the late Assembly have declared that any Presbytery is at liberty to receive Mr. Birch on trials, the Presbytery of Huntingdon ought not to have rejected him on the ground mentioned in their records; but to have taken him up, and dealt with him according to his merits.

The question on this motion was determined in the affirmative.

It was then moved and seconded, That the Presbytery of Huntingdon, or any other to which he may apply, be directed to receive Mr. Birch on trials, agreeably to the regulations respecting the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates; and that such Presbytery may abridge the period of his probation, if they think fit.

The same being under consideration, it was moved and seconded to strike out in the foregoing resolution the following words, "or any other to which he may apply." After some debate on this amendment, the Assembly

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 26*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Whitely obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of Mr. Birch's petition.

The amendment moved last evening was postponed, in order to institute an inquiry whether Mr. Birch has conformed to the injunction of last Assembly, requiring him not to preach within the bounds of the Presbytery of

Ohio, without the permission of that Presbytery. Mr. Birch having been charged in the course of debate with violating this injunction, he was called, and an opportunity given him to make his defence on this particular point.

Mr. Birch appeared, and desired to be heard generally on the subject of his petition. The Assembly

*Resolved*, That as he had already been fully heard on every thing that can affect the decision of the question before the house, except only the one contemplated, Mr. Birch shall, for the present, confine his defence to that point only, but that he shall afterwards have a full opportunity of vindicating his character on any particular in which it shall appear to labour.

Whereupon, Mr. Birch declined to speak farther, and withdrew in a contemptuous manner, signifying his intention to decline the jurisdiction of the General Assembly. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That in consequence of his conduct, and also of his having never been in regular ministerial communion with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, the General Assembly decline all farther proceedings with Mr. Birch, and declare to the people, and to the several Presbyteries in their connection, that he is a person henceforth possessed of no authority derived from said church, to exercise any part of the ministerial functions.

Dr. Woodhull requested leave to resign his seat in the Assembly, in favour of the Rev. Ebenezer Grant, appointed an alternate commissioner to serve in case of the absence of Dr. Woodhull. The request was granted, and Mr. Grant being present, took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

The committee to whom was referred the report of the standing Committee of Missions, made their report. The same being under consideration, the Assembly

*Resolved*, 1. That written instructions shall be given to the missionaries who shall be sent out from time to time; that the said instructions be given in the name of the Committee of Missions, stating, however, that they have been approved by the Assembly.

2. That the Committee of Missions shall have power, on any emergency, to issue new instructions to the missionaries, suited to the occasion.

3. That the Assembly approve of the orders given by the Committee of Missions, for the payment of ninety-eight dollars and seventy cents, to sundry persons for services rendered to the General Assembly; and that they be authorized to liquidate the accounts of the missionaries of the last year, and give to them, or their representatives respectively, draughts on the corporation for the sums that shall appear to be due.

4. That the committee of missions be, and they hereby are authorized, to employ a transcribing clerk, and to allow him such compensation, as they shall think reasonable.

The committee appointed to collect, and present to the Assembly, the substance and general result of the information obtained by the Assembly, respecting the general state of religion within their limits, reported. The report being read and considered, was adopted, and is as follows:

"The Assembly heard, at more than usual length, and with more than common satisfaction, the accounts received from their members, of the state of religion within the bounds of the Presbyterian church. Since an inquiry of this nature has become part of the annual business of the Assembly, it may be confidently asserted, that no result was ever presented to our body so favourable, and so gratifying to the friends of truth and piety.

There is scarcely a Presbytery under the care of the Assembly, from which some pleasing intelligence has not been announced; and from some of them, communications have been made, which so illustriously display the triumphs of evangelical truth, and the power of sovereign grace, as cannot but fill with joy the hearts of all who love to hear of the prosperity of the Redeemer's kingdom.

In most of the northern and eastern Presbyteries, revivals of religion of a more or less general nature, have taken place. In these revivals, the work of divine grace has proceeded, with a few exceptions, in the usual way. Sinners have been convinced and converted by the still small voice of the Holy Spirit, and have been brought out of darkness into marvellous light, and from the bondage of corruption to the glorious liberty of the children of God, without any remarkable bodily agitations, or extraordinary affections. In this calm and ordinary manner, many hundreds have been added to the church in the course of the last year, and multitudes of those who had before joined themselves to the Lord, have experienced times of refreshing and consolation from his presence.

In many of the southern and western Presbyteries, revivals more extensive, and of a more extraordinary nature, have taken place. While many within the bounds of those Presbyteries have been, as is hoped, effectually called, without any exercises other than those which have generally attended the progress of vital piety, there have been multitudes of instances in which great bodily agitations, and other circumstances out of the usual course of religious exercise, have attended the work. As these extraordinary appearances have been before announced to the Assembly, as the knowledge of them is generally diffused throughout the American churches, it is not judged necessary to enter into minute details on the subject. The Assembly would only observe, that although they forbear to express any opinion as to the origin and nature of some of those circumstances which have attended the southern and western revivals, and which have attracted so much of the attention of the religious world, yet they are constrained to acknowledge with thankfulness, that the last year, while it presented a continuance and great extension of this extraordinary work, furnished also increasing evidence that it is indeed the work of God, for which the friends of piety are bound to praise his holy name.

The Assembly cannot believe that a dispensation by means of which the ignorant are enlightened, the vicious reclaimed, the erroneous made to acknowledge and obey the truth as it is in Jesus, the haughty infidel humbled, and brought to bow, penitent and believing, before the cross of Christ, and the general aspect of society, changed from dissoluteness and profanity, to sobriety, order, and comparative purity, can be any other than a dispensation of the grace of God. And as there appears to be growing evidence, that these are the happy fruits of the above mentioned remarkable work, the Assembly cannot hesitate to recognize in it the same divine power, which has in every age appeared in a greater or smaller degree, to build up Zion, to confound the wisdom of the world, and to show that when the great Head of the church will work, none can hinder him. It would be easy for the Assembly to select some very remarkable instances of the triumphs of divine grace, which were exhibited before them, in the course of the very interesting narratives presented in the free conversation; instances of the most malignant opposers of vital piety, being convinced and reconciled; of some learned, active, and conspicuous infidels, becoming the signal monuments of that grace, which once they despised; and various circumstances which display the holy efficacy of the gospel. But forbearing to enter into minute details on this subject, they would only in general declare, that in the course of the last year, there is reason to believe, that several thousands within the bounds of the Presbyterian church, have been brought to embrace the gospel of Christ, and large accessions of zeal and of strength, as well as of members, given to his people.

The Assembly were gratified to be informed, that even in those parts of our church where no remarkable revivals have occurred, the word and ordinances of the gospel have been in many places more generally, and more seriously attended upon, in the course of the last year, than for some time before; that infidelity is less bold and active than formerly; and that, on the whole, appearances have become more encouraging since the last conversation in the Assembly on this subject.

The Assembly consider it as worthy of particular attention, that most of the accounts of revivals communicated to them, stated that the institution of praying societies, or seasons of special prayer to God for the outpouring of the Spirit, generally preceded the remarkable displays of divine grace with which our land has been recently favoured. In most cases, preparatory to the signal effusions of the Holy Ghost, the pious have been stirred up to cry fervently and importunately that God would appear and vindicate his own cause. The Assembly see in this a confirmation of the word of God, and an ample encouragement of the prayers and hopes of the pious, for future and more extensive manifestations of divine power. And they trust that the churches under their care, while they see cause of abundant thankfulness for this dispensation, will also perceive, that it presents new motives to zeal and fervour in applications to that throne of grace from which every good and perfect gift cometh.

The Assembly also observed, with great pleasure, that the desire for spreading the gospel among the destitute inhabitants on our frontiers, among the blacks, and among the savage tribes on our borders, has been rapidly increasing during the last year, in various parts of our church. The Assembly take notice of this circumstance with the more satisfaction, as it not only affords a pleasing presage of the spread of the gospel, but also furnishes agreeable evidence of the genuineness and the benign tendency of that spirit which God has been pleased to pour out upon his people.

The Assembly consider the prospects of our church in the frontier settlements, as more favourable than they have been at the date of any former report. They are gratified to hear, from various quarters, that new churches are rapidly forming, increasing in the number of their members, and in their punctual attendance on the means of grace; that many of these churches have been, within a short period, supplied with stated pastors, and that more missionary labours are called for in the above mentioned settlements than any arrangements heretofore made can possibly supply.

Information of a very pleasing nature was also communicated to the Assembly, by the delegates from the General Association of Connecticut, of a work of divine grace in various parts of that State, especially in Yale College; in which important institution many of the youth have hopefully become pious. The probable influence of such an event, in so respectable a seminary of learning, on the church of Christ generally, and particularly in the state of Connecticut, cannot but make a very pleasing impression on the friends of piety.

On the whole, the Assembly cannot but declare with joy, and the most cordial congratulations to the churches under their care, that the state and prospect of vital religion in our country are more favourable and encouraging than at any period within the last forty years. They see indeed much to lament, in the infidelity, the vice, the profaneness, the lukewarmness, and formality which still in many places abound; but they believe it would be ingratitude to the gracious Head of the church, as well as injustice to the friends of religion, not to announce, that the aspect of our American Zion is, in general, unusually cheering, and that those who feel interested in the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, while they are called upon by new and additional motives, to implore the continuance and extension of his mercy, have abundant reason to be encouraged, and to rejoice in the hope, that God will make still more rich and glorious displays of his power and grace, until he establish Jerusalem, and make her a name and a praise in the earth, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. Ebenezer Grant, and Robert Finley, be a committee to meet with the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, the last Wednesday of September next, and direct the appropriation of the interest accrued last year, on certain moneys in the hands of the Trustees, for the education of poor and pious youth; and that they inquire respecting the appropriation of the interest of said moneys accrued the preceding year, and dispose of the same if yet in the hands of the Trustees; and that the said committee report to next Assembly.

The Assembly proceeded to appoint supplies for the pulpits of the delegates appointed this year to attend the General Association of Connecticut; when Mr. Faitoute was appointed to supply Dr. Rodgers's pulpit, the third Sabbath of June next, and Dr. McWhorter the fourth Sabbath. Mr. Ebenezer Grant was appointed to supply Dr. Roe's pulpit the third Sabbath of June next, Mr. Riggs the fourth Sabbath; and Mr. Barclay to supply Mr. Condict's pulpit the third Sabbath of June.

The Assembly called for the report of the committee appointed by last Assembly, to prepare and lay before this Assembly a draught of a Catechism for the use of children, when a member of the committee informed the Assembly that the committee did not perform the service assigned to them.

*Resolved*, That the committee be discharged from any farther attention to this business.

The Presbytery of Ohio informed the Assembly, that agreeably to the order of last Assembly, they sent a missionary to Marietta, and that his journal has been laid before the Committee of Missions.

An election was held for the choice of a standing Committee of Missions, when the Rev. Drs. Samuel Blair, and Ashbel Green, the Rev. Messrs. Philip Milledoler and Jacob J. Janeway, Dr. Elias Boudinot, Messrs. Ebenezer Hazard, and Robert Smith, were duly elected to serve as the committee for the ensuing year.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Whereas, A communication was received by the last Assembly from the Convention of the regular Ministers of the Gospel of the state of Vermont, proposing a ministerial correspondence between the said Convention and the General Assembly; and whereas, the last Assembly could not with propriety commence the proposed correspondence, because they had not received the necessary information respecting the doctrine and discipline of the said ministers, and the churches under their care; and measures were taken by that Assembly to procure such information; and whereas, this Assembly have obtained from different quarters considerable information in the premises,

*Resolved*, That Dr. McWhorter, Dr. Dwight, Mr. Clark, Mr. Cathcart, and Mr. Hughes, be a committee to take this subject into consideration, and make such report to the Assembly as may lead to a proper conclusion of this interesting business.

Dr. Green, who has served the General Assembly as Stated Clerk since its first institution, having sent in his resignation, the Assembly accepted the same, and

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this house be presented to Dr Green, for his long, diligent, and faithful services; and that the Assembly proceed to elect another in his stead.

Previously to such election it was judged expedient to fix his compensation for the ensuing year. It was accordingly agreed, that he receive forty dollars for his services; and that all sums which he shall pay for the postage of letters and other papers directed to him as Stated Clerk, shall be refunded.

Ordered, That the members bring in their ballots for Stated Clerk to-morrow morning.

Mr. Finley and Mr. Murray obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Mr. Fithian requested leave to resign his seat in the Assembly in favour of Mr. John Lisle, a ruling elder, appointed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia as an alternate commissioner, to serve in case of the absence of Mr. Fithian. The request was granted, and Mr. Lisle being present took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The season for special prayer and other religious exercises, appointed for last evening, was duly attended by the members of the Assembly and a very large concourse of the citizens.

The Assembly proceeded to the election of a Stated Clerk, when the Rev. Philip Milledoler was duly elected.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk now chosen be directed to receive from Dr. Green, the late Stated Clerk, all books and papers committed to his care by the General Assembly, or by the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia; that the present Stated Clerk give a receipt for the books and papers he shall receive as aforesaid, and lodge a duplicate thereof with the Treasurer of the Corporation.

A letter was received from certain citizens of Philadelphia, styling themselves *Friends of humanity*, accompanied with a present of two hundred copies of a publication on the vaccine disease, requesting that the Assembly will take measures to have the same distributed among the people for their information on the subject; and to hasten that expected and desirable event, *the total extinction of that loathsome and fatal disease, the small pox.* Fifty additional copies of the same publication, accompanied with a few copies of Dr. Jenner's Instructions on the practice of the Vaccine Inoculation, were also received from the same benevolent persons, with a request that they may be sent by the missionaries from this Assembly to the frontiers of the country, and distributed for the caution and direction of those who have less opportunity of obtaining medical aid and advice, on the subject of Vaccine Inoculation. The present was thankfully accepted by the Assembly, who feeling perfectly disposed to co-operate with those Friends of humanity, distributed the two hundred copies aforesaid among the members, to be used at their discretion for promoting the end in view. The fifty copies with the directions accompanying them, were transmitted to the standing Committee of Missions, to the intent that they may be employed for the purposes aforesaid.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia, reported, and the records were approved to page 111, inclusive.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Agreeably to the order of the afternoon, the Assembly proceeded to hold an election for the purpose of choosing persons to serve as Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; a ballot being taken, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Blair, of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and Col. Henry Rutgers, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of New York, were duly chosen, to serve in the place of Dr. McWhorter and Mr. Linn, who had resigned.

The Southern Synods, who manage the missionary business in their separate capacity, were called upon to report to the Assembly their proceedings therein. Whereupon,

The Synod of Pittsburgh made a verbal report, stating that they had sent out three missionaries in the course of the last year.

The Synod of Virginia in like manner reported, that they sent out two missionaries in the course of the preceding year, but have not received their journals, and can give no account of their progress or success; that a missionary of the former year had been employed twelve months in missionary labours, and made a very satisfactory report to the Synod at their sessions in September last.

The Synod of the Carolinas in like manner failed to make a written report, but the members present informed the Assembly, that the said Synod at their sessions in October last, appointed seven missionaries to itinerate within their bounds and parts adjacent the present year, of whom one was to spend some time in missionary labours among the Catawba Indians.

A communication was received from the Presbyteries of Albany, Oneida, and Columbia, requesting, among other things, that the said Presbyteries may be constituted a Synod, by the name of the Synod of Albany.

Satisfactory evidence was laid before the Assembly, that the Synod of New York and New Jersey, to which said Presbyteries belong, has been consulted, and given their consent to the measure proposed, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries of Albany, Oneida, and Columbia be, and they hereby are, constituted and formed into a Synod, to be known by the name of the Synod of Albany; that they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian Church of Albany, the first Wednesday of October next, at 2 o'clock, P. M., and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister who may be present; and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

The Assembly took into consideration the subject of altering the constitution, recommended to the attention of this Assembly by the *last*. After some discussion, a motion was made to dismiss the same, which was determined in the affirmative.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Green, Mr. Milledoler, and Mr. Irwin, be a committee to select such parts of the minutes of the present Assembly, as they may judge proper for publication; that the Permanent Clerk make a copy thereof, with as full and correct a list of the Synods, Presbyteries, ministers, churches, licentiates, and vacancies, under the care of the General Assembly, as can be obtained; and cause fifteen hundred copies to be published and distributed, agreeably to directions given during the present sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 28th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

A communication was received through the Committee of Overtures, stating the great labour and expense to which the distant Presbyteries in the South and West are subjected in sending commissioners to the General Assembly, and praying that a plan may be devised to afford them aid from the funds of the Assembly. On motion,

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Hillyer, Alexander, Welch, Dodd, and Speer, be a committee to take this subject generally into consideration, and report thereon to the Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

The committee appointed on the communication from the Convention of the regular Ministers of the Gospel of the state of Vermont, reported. The report being considered and amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

"Your committee are of opinion that although this Assembly have not received any answer to the request of last Assembly proposed to the Convention of Vermont, yet the Assembly have received satisfactory information on the subjects alluded to, both from their own delegates to the General Association of Connecticut of last year, and also from the representatives of that body in the present Assembly. The committee therefore submit the following plan of union and intercourse between the said Convention and the General Assembly, viz:

1. Each body shall send one or two delegates to meet and sit with the other, at the stated sessions of each body, respectively.

2. The delegate or delegates from each respectively, shall have the privilege of joining in the discussions and deliberations of the body as freely and fully as their own members.

3. That the union and intercourse may be full and complete between the said bodies, the delegate or delegates from each respectively, shall not only sit and deliberate, but also act and vote; which articles comprise the great principles of the union between the General Assembly and the General Association of Connecticut.

Your committee finally submit the following resolution, viz:

*Resolved*, That the above plan shall go into operation so soon as it shall be ratified by the Convention."

The Assembly having adopted the foregoing report,

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk transmit an attested copy of the above record to the Convention, by the delegates appointed by this Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut.

Mr. Smith obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

A petition from the Presbytery of Abingdon, praying the Assembly to dissolve the connection between that Presbytery and the Synod of the Carolinas, and to attach the said Presbytery to the Synod of Virginia, was brought in and read.

It appearing to this Assembly that the prayer of this petition is reasonable, and that the Synod of the Carolinas have expressed their concurrence therein,

*Resolved*, That the same be granted, and that the Presbytery of Abingdon be, and it hereby is, taken from under the care of the Synod of the Carolinas, and placed under the care and formed into a constituent part of the Synod of Virginia.

The Assembly took into consideration that part of the communication from the Presbytery of Oneida, wherein they pray that the churches under the care of that Presbytery may be exempted from pecuniary contributions to the funds of the Assembly. On motion, it was

*Resolved*, That the request be not granted.

The Committee of Missions made a farther report.

*Resolved,* That the same be referred to the committee heretofore appointed on a former report made by the Committee of Missions; and as one of the members of that committee has withdrawn, with leave,

*Resolved,* That Dr. McWhorter, Mr. Marques, and Mr. Hill, be added to the committee.

The Assembly took into consideration that part of the communication from the Synod of Kentucky, wherein they state that they find themselves unable to answer the demands upon them for missionary labours, and pray the Assembly to attend to their destitute situation, and to send out missionaries to spread the gospel among the multitudes within their limits, and on their borders, who are looking for, and ready to hail, the messengers of the gospel of peace.

On motion, it was agreed, that the request be granted, and that *that* part of the country be considered as under the care of the General Assembly in missionary concerns, and that the Committee of Missions be directed to pay attention to it.

The Rev. Dr. Dwight and the Rev. Mr. Alexander obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

The committee appointed by last General Assembly to prepare an edition of the Extracts of the General Assembly, made a farther report, stating that they have completed the business assigned to them, and that forty-eight copies, ready bound, are now in the hands of the Treasurer of the Corporation, subject to the orders of the Assembly.

*Resolved,* That one copy of the said extracts be allotted to each Synod, one to each Presbytery under the care of the General Assembly, one to the Trustees of the General Assembly, one to the Committee of Missions, and that one copy be presented to the General Association of Connecticut. That the Treasurer deliver the same to the persons who shall apply for them, and take their receipts respectively, distinctly marking for what body they are received.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 30th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee to whom was referred the second report of the standing Committee of Missions, and to detail such parts thereof as may demand the farther consideration of the Assembly, made a report, which being considered, the Assembly

*Resolved,* 1. That there ought to be no anticipation of the funds in future; or, in other words, that appropriations ought not to be made in any year beyond the amount which the funds arising in that year will be sufficient to satisfy.

2. That the corporation be directed to grant a warrant in favour of the Rev. Peter Fish for $79 73; and another in favour of the Rev. Stephen Lindsley for $60 97.

3. That the Rev. Messrs. William Arthur, John Lindsley, Stewart Williamson, and Dr. Thomas Read, together with Mr. John Chavis, a black man, licensed by the Presbytery of Lexington, be appointed missionaries for the times and on the routes specified in the report.

4. That the Rev. Mr. Blackburn be employed as a missionary to the Cherokee Indians; and that the Committee of Missions give him such instructions as circumstances, in their opinion, require.

5. That the missionaries be left at discretion as to the time of the year in

which to perform their services, provided their tours be completed so as to enable them to report agreeably to the instructions of the Committee of Missions.

6. That the Committee of Missions be authorized to advance one half year's salary to the stated missionary, when the state of the funds will, in their opinion, justify the measure.

7. That the committee be vested with discretionary power to send missionaries the ensuing year to Norfolk, in Virginia, to the city of Washington, to the Genesee and Sparta, in Ontario county, state of New York—if it can be done without embarrassing the funds.

8. That it be enjoined on Presbyteries to use their utmost diligence to find and recommend suitable persons, especially ordained ministers, to be employed as missionaries, it being contemplated to send out many more missionaries the next year than the present.

9. That it be recommended to the committee to obtain information respecting the nature and state of the funds of the society in Scotland, "for pious purposes, and among others, for converting the Indians of North America," and to endeavour to procure the whole, or such part thereof as may comport with the views of the society.

10. That the Synod of the Carolinas be authorized and requested to send a missionary the next summer, for six months, to the Mississippi Territory; and that the General Assembly will assist them, if necessary, in paying for his services.

And whereas, it is of great importance that the pulpits of those missionaries who have pastoral charges, be regularly and fully supplied, and so the missionaries be enabled to prosecute their labours without anxiety or apprehension on that score,

*Resolved*, That the following persons be appointed, and they hereby are appointed, to supply the pulpits of Dr. Read, and Mr. Arthur, during their missionary tours; that the said missionaries give seasonable notice to the persons appointed; and that these last pay a special attention to the fulfilment of their appointments. The Rev. John Collins was appointed to supply Dr. Read's pulpit, the first Sabbath in the term of his mission; the Rev. John E. Latta, the second; the Rev. John Johnson, the third; the Rev. Thomas Grier, the fourth; Dr. Samuel Blair, the fifth; the Rev. John B. Linn, the sixth; the Rev. Philip Milledoler, the seventh; and Mr. John Waugh, the rest of the time. The Rev. Francis A. Latta was appointed to supply Mr. Arthur's pulpit the first Sabbath in the term of his mission; the Rev. Nathan Grier, the second; the Rev. Alexander Mitchell, the third; the Rev. Nathaniel W. Sample, the fourth; the Rev. William Latta, the fifth; the Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, the sixth; the Rev. Alexander Mitchell, the seventh; and the Rev. Francis Hindman, the eighth.

*Resolved*, That the committee appointed for printing the extracts of this Assembly, be directed and authorized to incorporate with, or add to, the extracts to be published, such parts of the reports made to this house by the standing Committee of Missions, as to them shall seem proper, for the information of the churches on the missionary business; and that they add thereto an abstract of the state of the funds, and of receipts and disbursements, to be derived from the accounts presented to this Assembly by the Treasurer of the corporation.

Mr. Irwin, who was appointed by last Assembly as an agent to solicit donations for the permanent fund of the General Assembly, reported, that he had executed the business assigned him in part; and exhibited a statement of his accounts.

The Rev. Mr. Hoge sent forward his accounts as the Assembly's agent.

The Rev. Dr. Green reported, that he had been prevented by certain circumstances from doing any thing in the agency business during the last year.

No report was received from Dr. Read, or the other agents.

*Resolved*, That the accounts of Messrs. Hoge and Irwin be referred to the corporation of the General Assembly; and that the said corporation be requested and authorized to liquidate said accounts; to allow the agents the same compensation per diem as was given to the agents who reported to last Assembly, and to grant them warrants for the balance which shall appear to be due.

*Resolved*, That all the persons who have heretofore received appointments as agents, continue to prosecute their agency, at discretion, during the ensuing year; that they pay a special attention to recovering the arrears due on their subscription papers, and report to next Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the agents who have not reported to this Assembly, be careful to forward their reports and accounts to the next Assembly.

The committee to whom was referred the proposition brought in by the Committee of Overtures, respecting a provision in aid of the commissioners from distant Presbyteries attending the sessions of the General Assembly, reported; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly are fully persuaded of the propriety and importance of rendering such aid, as far as practicable, and do hereby recommend it to the Presbyteries under their care to consider the propriety of giving such aid, and the best means of effecting it, and to report on this subject to the next General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Drs. Blair, Tennent, and Green, the Rev. Messrs. Irwin, Milledoler, Potts, Linn, and Janeway, be a committee to take into consideration the expediency of publishing a new edition of the Confession of Faith, &c. of this Church; to consider whether any, and if any, what alterations ought to be made in the said Confession of Faith, &c.; to make such preparatory arrangements on this subject as they shall judge proper, and to report to next Assembly.

Whereas, This Assembly have been informed, that one or more unauthorized editions of the Confession of Faith, and the Form of Government and Discipline of this Church, have been published within a short period,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly cannot recognize as accurate, or recommend to the churches under their care, any edition of the said Confession of Faith, published since that which was printed by Robert Aitken, in the year 1797, under the direction of the General Assembly. And the Assembly would further declare to the churches in their communion, that no edition of the said Confession of Faith ought, in future, to be purchased or encouraged by them, except such as may be published by the authority of the Assembly.

A petition was received signed by a number of persons in Ontario county, state of New York, representing that the petitioners and others have formed themselves into a religious society, and contemplate settling a Presbyterian minister among them so soon as they can fix on a proper character; that in the mean time they have made provision for paying supplies for the ensuing year; and as they are not convenient to any Presbytery, and have made several applications of this sort in vain, they therefore pray the Assembly to take their case into consideration, and to send some ministers or licentiates among them, with a view to settlement.

*Resolved*, That the above petition be referred to the Committee of Missions, and that the committee be directed to furnish the supplies required, if practicable.

Mr. Marques and Mr. Sattersfield obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

*Resolved*, That the sum of five dollars and sixteen cents of the Assembly's money, lost by the Rev. James Hall, on his journey to this city, by unavoidable accident, be credited to him in his accounts with the Corporation.

A communication was received from the Trustees of the General Assembly, informing this Assembly that the Trustees have resolved to choose a Treasurer and Secretary at each annual session of the Board, and that they have re-elected Mr. Isaac Snowden, jr., Treasurer, and the Rev. Philip Milledoler, Secretary, for the ensuing year.

The committee appointed by last Assembly to examine and collate the several articles on which Presbyteries have been required to make reports, and to present to this Assembly a general regulation, proper to be adopted on the subject, reported. The report being considered and amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

" As the reports made to the different judicatures of our Church are intimately connected with, and depend on, each other, your committee judged it proper to submit to the Assembly a complete system on this subject, as follows, viz :

1. The Presbyteries shall direct the Session of each congregation, whether supplied with a pastor or vacant, to make an annual report to the Presbytery to which it belongs, stating the number of communicants, and the number of persons baptized the preceding year, and whether in infancy or adult years.

2. Presbyteries shall make annual reports to their Synods, stating a list of pastors in the order of seniority, with their churches annexed, of ministers without pastoral charges, in the same order; of licentiates and vacancies, distinguishing those vacancies which are able to support a pastor from those which are not. These reports should be closed by an historical account of licensures, ordinations, instalments, suspensions, depositions, translations, deaths; and also of members or licentiates received or dismissed in the usual form.

3. Synods shall report to each General Assembly, and detail the whole Presbyterial report, except the historical account above mentioned, which may be omitted at their discretion.

4. Presbyteries shall send to each General Assembly duplicates of their reports to Synod, omitting the historical details aforesaid, if they think proper, and adding the amount of the collection made by each church for the funds of the Assembly the preceding year; with such information on the missionary business as shall seem useful; provided they have not previously forwarded this information (which we earnestly recommend) to the Committee of Missions.

5. Every fifth year, beginning with the year 1805, Presbyteries shall add to their reports to the General Assembly, and to their reports to the next preceding sessions of Synod, a detail of baptisms, communicants, &c., received from their churches at a recent date; making the same as full and correct as possible, to the end that the same may be printed with the extracts of the year, if the Assembly shall think proper.

All reports should bear date and signature; and if by any means they fail of being sent to the proper judicatory, should be forwarded to the Stated Clerk by mail or otherwise.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 5 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 31*st*, 5 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read, and the whole minutes from the beginning of the sessions were revised.

The Committee of Missions having expressed an opinion, that the sum of five hundred and thirty dollars, collected for the Assembly within the bounds of the Synod of the Carolinas, ought to be considered as belonging to the permanent fund, the Assembly approved and adopted this opinion.

*Resolved*, That the Permanent and Temporary Clerks of the Assembly receive each the same sum per diem for their services this year as they received last year.

The janitor, John Lauder, brought in his bill, amounting to thirty-two dollars and fifty-six cents.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Whereupon, The Moderator dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution, and

Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1803.

### SYNOD OF ALBANY.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oneida, | 3 | 3 | | 4 |
| Columbia, | 3 | | | 7 |
| Albany, | 6 | | 1 | 5 |
| SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY. | | | | |
| Hudson, | 7 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| New York, | 14 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| Long Island, | 11 | 4 | | 5 |
| New Brunswick, | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 15 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| New Castle, | 12 | 3 | 6 | 14 |
| Carlisle, | 15 | 4 | 4 | 11 |
| Baltimore, | 4 | 4 | | 6 |
| Lewes, | 4 | | 1 | 8 |
| Huntingdon, | 13 | 4 | 1 | 10 |
| SYNOD OF PITTSBURGH. | | | | |
| Redstone, | 11 | | 2 | 17 |
| Ohio, | 16 | | 4 | 9 |
| Erie, | 9 | | 1 | 21 |
| SYNOD OF VIRGINIA. | | | | |
| Winchester, | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Hanover, | 8 | 4 | 1 | 12 |
| Lexington, | 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| SYNOD OF KENTUCKY. | | | | |
| West Lexington, | 11 | | 2 | |
| Washington, | 7 | | | |
| Transylvania, | 8 | | 1 | |
| Cumberland, | 11 | | | |

SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orange, | 6 | 4 | 8 | 21 |
| South Carolina, (1st,) | 7 | 4 | 3 | 21 |
| South Carolina, (2d,) | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Abingdon, |  | 6 |  | 14 |
| Concord, | 10 | 1 |  | 15 |
| Union, | 5 |  |  | 4 |
| Greenville, | 2 | 1 |  |  |
| Hopewell, | 4 |  |  |  |
| Total, | 260 | 62 | 48 | 251 |

Contingent Fund for the year, . . . . . . . . . $1,068 10
Permanent Fund invested, . . . . . . . . . . 14,500 00

## 1804.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 17*th*, 1804.

The Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, at eleven o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. Dr. James Hall, the Moderator of last Assembly, with a sermon from Romans x. 1: "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."

After prayer the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Samuel F. Snowden, and Rev. Jedediah Chapman.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Jonas Coe.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Joseph Sweetman.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Jonathan Freeman.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, Rev. Edward D. Griffin, Rev. Buckley Carl, and Rev. Amzi Armstrong. Messrs. Henry Rutgers, Gilbert Allen, and Preserve Riggs, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Aaron Woolworth.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Samuel Dr. S. Smith, Rev. James F. Armstrong, Rev. Joseph Clark, and Rev. Holloway Hunt. Messrs. John Bayard, and Daniel Agnew, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Dr. William M. Tennent, Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, and Rev. George Potts. Messrs. David Cloyd, Charles Ogden, and Robert Erwine, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. William Arthur, Rev. Francis A. Latta, and Rev. John E. Latta. Messrs. Samuel Barr, James Porter, and George McIlvaine, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, Rev. John Linn, Rev. Robert Kennedy, and Rev. David McConnaughy. Messrs. James McLene, and Robert Brown, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—The Rev. Stuart Williamson.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. James Inglis.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. John Coulter, and Rev. Samuel Bryson. Mr. William Montgomery, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. Jacob Jennings, and Rev. Robert Steele.

Presbytery of Ohio—The Rev. James Hughes, Rev. Stephen Lindley, and Rev. Cephas Dodd.

Presbytery of Erie—The Rev. Thomas E. Hughes.

Presbytery of Winchester—The Rev. Nash Le Grand.

Presbytery of Lexington—The Rev. Samuel Brown, Rev. John McCue. Mr. Alexander Nelson, elder.

Presbytery of Concord—The Rev. James Hall, and Rev. William C. Davis.

Second Presbytery of South Carolina—The Rev. Robert Wilson.

The Rev. Dr. Matthias Burnet, and the Rev. Daniel Huntington appeared in the Assembly, and exhibited a certificate of their appointment as delegates to this Assembly from the General Association of Connecticut.

The certificate being read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly agreeably to their appointment.

The Rev. James F. Armstrong was chosen Moderator of the Assembly, and the Rev. John E. Latta, Temporary Clerk.

The Assembly proceeded to read the minutes of last Assembly, and having made progress, deferred farther attention to this subject till to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Tennent, the Rev. Messrs. Linn, Chapman, Davis, Le Grand, Huntington, Freeman, Hunt, Griffin, Latta, and Inglis; with Messrs. Bayard, Rutgers, Ogden, and Agnew, elders; be a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 18*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper of the Presbytery of Carlisle, and Mr. James McLene, a ruling elder belonging to that Presbytery, appeared in the house, and their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly.

The Assembly resumed and finished the reading of the minutes of last Assembly.

A letter from the Rev. Dr. Buist, of the Presbytery of Charleston, presented by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, was read.

*Resolved*, That the subject of this letter be the order of the day for Monday next.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Clark, Mr. Freeman, and Mr. Riggs, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia. That Mr. Snowden, Mr. Woolworth, and Mr. McLene, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh. That Dr. Burnet, Mr. Francis A. Latta, and Mr. Allen, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas. And that the said committees report as soon as may be convenient.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly will, on Tuesday next, enter into a free conversation on the general state of religion within their limits.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Smith, Dr. Hall, and the Rev. James Hughes, be a committee to take notes of the information which may be given on this subject; to form the same into a general and connected report, and lay it before the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the members of this Assembly, with such of the citizens as may choose to join with them, will spend a part of next Thursday evening in the Second Presbyterian church of this city, in special prayer for the revival of religion, and other religious exercises directed to the same object; and that Dr. Cooper, Mr. Linn, and Mr. Janeway, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate the persons who shall lead in the exercises.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Inglis and Mr. Griffin, with the assistance of the Permanent Clerk, be a committee to select such parts of the minutes of this Assembly as they may judge proper to be published for the information of the churches.

The Assembly called for the report directed to be made by the Synod of the Carolinas, on the missionary business. Dr. Hall, in behalf of the Synod, informed that they had not been unmindful of their duty in this respect, but having no business matured for the purpose, the Synod had no report to make.

Whereas, The Assembly, for several years past, have been taking measures to obtain materials for a complete history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, which materials, as far as they have been obtained, are in the hands of the Stated Clerk, and it seems expedient that the history contemplated should be entered upon as soon as possible; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green and Mr. Ebenezer Hazard be, and they are hereby appointed to write the history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, under the care of the General Assembly, and lay a copy thereof, when completed, before the General Assembly; that they have the free use of the materials collected, and that the copyright of the history, when finished, shall belong to the said Dr. Green and Mr. Hazard.

And whereas, there are certain Presbyteries and congregations under the care of the Assembly that have not yet furnished materials for their history, though long solicited, therefore,

*Resolved*, That all such Presbyteries and congregations be, and they are hereby strictly enjoined, to do all in their power to complete their histories as soon as possible, and to forward them without delay to the said Dr. Green and Mr. Hazard, resident in the city of Philadelphia; who are hereby authorized, if they find it necessary, to write to any Presbyteries and congregations that may not forward to them the historical documents desired, and urge them to the performance of their duty, and to state to the Assembly the names of those Presbyteries and congregations, if such there shall be, who shall not ultimately furnish the information necessary.

And this Assembly do also hereby recommend to all the people under their care, especially to gentlemen of literature and leisure within their bounds, to furnish to the gentlemen appointed to this service, all the information in their power to give, relative to the history in contemplation, that this important work may be completed in a manner as accurate and satisfactory as possible.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Presbyteries who have not reported on the alteration proposed to be made in the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of the Constitution, were called upon to make their reports. Whereupon,

The Presbytery of West Lexington reported, that in their opinion the alteration contemplated *ought* to be made.

It appeared upon inquiry, that twelve Presbyteries have authorized, on their behalf, the Assembly to make the proposed alteration; and that eight Presbyteries reported their opinion, that the alteration ought *not* to be made.

The Assembly agreed to postpone a farther attention to this subject, till they receive the report of a Committee on the Constitution, appointed by last Assembly.

The Assembly called on the Synods to make their usual annual reports.

Reports were exhibited by the Synod of New York and New Jersey; the Synod of Philadelphia, the Synod of Pittsburgh, the Synod of Virginia, and the Synod of the Carolinas.

The reports were read, and are as follows:

The Synod of New York and New Jersey reported, under date of the 19th of October, A. D. 1803, that they consist of four Presbyteries, viz:

1. The Presbytery of Hudson, consisting of ten ministers, as follows: The Rev. Nathan Ker, pastor of Goshen; Rev. John Minor, Union; Rev. Andrew King, Walkill; Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Newburgh and New Windsor; Rev. Methuselah Baldwin, Scotch Town; Rev. John Clarke, Pleasant Valley; Rev. Isaac Vandoren, Hopewell; Rev. Benjamin Prime, Deer Park; Rev. Messrs. Solomon Mead and Josiah Henderson, without pastoral charges. *Vacancies*—Salem, Franklin, Bedford, Fishkill, and Bethlehem, each able to support a minister; Florida and Amity, united, able to support a minister; Warwick and Pittsburgh, unable.

2. The Presbytery of Long Island have made no report to the Synod this year.

3. The Presbytery of New York, consisting of twenty-two ministers, as follows: The Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, co-pastor of the United Presbyterian churches of New York; Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter, co-pastor of the church of Newark; Rev. Dr. Azel Roe, pastor of Woodbridge; Rev. Dr. John McKnight, co-pastor of New York; Rev. Lemuel Fordham, pastor of Black River; Rev. Asa Hillyer, Orange Dale; Rev. Aaron Condict, Hanover; Rev. Samuel Miller, co-pastor of New York; Rev. Gershom Williams, pastor of Springfield; Rev. Henry Cook, second church Woodbridge; Rev. James Richards, Morristown; Rev. Robert Smith, Savannah, in Georgia; Rev. Edward D. Griffin, co-pastor Newark; Rev. Amzi Armstrong, pastor of Mendham; Rev. Buckley Carl, Rahway; Rev. Matthew La Rue Perine, South Hanover; Rev. Henry Kollock, Elizabethtown; Rev. Stephen O. Thompson, Connecticut Farms; Rev. Elias Riggs, Amboy; Jonathan Elmer, Jacob Vanarsdalen, and James G. Force, without pastoral charges. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Washington McKnight, and Eliezer Burnet. *Vacancies*—Westfield, New Providence, and Rockaway, each able to support a pastor; Succasunna and Hardiston, not able.

4. The Presbytery of New Brunswick, consisting of nineteen ministers, viz: The Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith, President of New Jersey College; Rev. Dr. John Woodhull, pastor of Freehold; Rev. James F. Armstrong, Trenton and Maidenhead; Rev. Joseph Rue, Pennington and Trenton, first church; Rev. Joseph Clark, New Brunswick; Rev. William Boyd, Lamington; Rev. Thomas Grant, Amwell and Flemington; Rev. Robert Finley, Baskenridge; Rev. David Barclay, Boundbrook; Rev. Holloway W. Hunt, Bethlehem, Kingwood, and Alexandria; Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve, Medway, in Georgia; Rev. William B. Sloan, Greenwich and Mansfield; Rev. George S. Woodhull, Cranberry; Rev. David Comfort, Kingston; Rev. John Connell, Allentown and Nottingham; Rev. Andrew Hunter, John Boyd, Nathaniel Harris, Ebenezer Grant, without pastoral charges. *Licentiate*—Mr. Joseph Caldwell. *Vacancies*—Oxford and Mount Bethel united, able to support a minister; Newton and Hardwick, united, able to support a minister; Prince-

ton, able to support a minister; Hacketstown, Knolton, Shappenock, Shrewsbury, Shark River, and Middletown Point, not able.

The Synod of Philadelphia exhibited their report, bearing date the sixteenth day of May, A. D. 1804, stating that they consist of six Presbyteries, as follows, viz:

1. The Presbytery of Philadelphia, which contains seventeen ministers, viz: The Rev. Dr. William M. Tennent, pastor of Abington, Norriton, and New Providence; Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, co-pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. James Boyd, pastor of Newtown, and Bensalem; Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Neshaminy; Rev. John Davenport, Deerfield; Rev. Ethan Osborn, Fairfield; Rev. Philip Milledoler, Third Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Uriah Dubois, Deep Run and Tinicum; Rev. Robert Russel, Allen Township; Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, co-pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. John B. Linn, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. George Potts, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia; Rev. Thomas Picton, Woodbury and Timber Creek; Rev. William Latta, Great Valley and Charleston; Rev. David Edwards, Cape May; Rev. Dr. Samuel Blair, and the Rev. Abijah Davis, without pastoral charges. *Licentiates*—Messrs. John Jones, Nathaniel Todd, and John M. Bradford. *Vacancies*—Pitts Grove, able to support a pastor; Bridgeton and Greenwich, united, able to support a pastor; Penn's Neck and Alloway's Creek, not able.

2. The Presbytery of New Castle, which consists of fifteen ministers, viz: The Rev. Dr. Thomas Read, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. William McKennan, Red Clay Creek; Rev. Colin McFarquhar, Donnegal; Rev. Nathaniel W. Sample, Lancaster, Leacock, and Middle Octorara; Rev. George Luckey, Centre and Bethel; Rev. Nathan Grier, Forks of Brandywine; Rev. William Arthur, Pequea; Rev. Samuel Martin, Slate Ridge and Chanceford; Rev. Francis A. Latta, First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington; Rev. John E. Latta, New Castle and Christiana Bridge; Rev. Thomas Grier, Middleton and Lower Brandywine; Rev. James Magraw, West Nottingham; Rev. Messrs. Alexander Mitchell, Francis Hindman, and Samuel Leacock, without pastoral charges. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Wallace, Waugh, Williamson, Hood, Cummins, and John D. Perkins. *Vacancies*—Upper Octorara, Fagg's Manor, New London, The Rock, and St. George's, each able to support a pastor; Chesnut Level, and Little Britain, united, able; Drawyers and Middleton, (Delaware,) united, able; Head of Christiana, Pencader, White Clay Creek, Deer Creek, and Chatham, not able.

3. The Presbytery of Lewes, which consists of five ministers, viz: The Rev. Samuel McMasters, pastor of Snow Hill, Pitts Creek, and Rehoboth; Rev. Stewart Williamson, Blackwater, Buckingham, and Queponco; Rev. John Johnson, Murderkill, and stated supply at Dover; Rev. John B. Slemons, Monokin, and Wicomico; Rev. John Burton, without a pastoral charge. *Licentiate*—Mr. James Laird. *Vacancies*—Lewes, Cool Spring, and Indian River, united, able to support a pastor; Broad Creek, Vienna, Duck Creek, Queen Ann's, St. John's, Dover, and Three Runs, not able.

4. The Presbytery of Baltimore, from which no report has been received since last report of Synod to the General Assembly.

5. The Presbytery of Carlisle, which consists of nineteen ministers, viz: The Rev. Dr. John King, pastor of West Connegocheague; Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, Carlisle; Rev. John Linn, Sherman's Valley; Rev. Samuel Waugh, Silver Spring and Monaghan; Rev. James Snodgrass, Hanover; Rev. William Paxton, Lower Marsh Creek; Rev. Robert Cathcart, York and Hopewell; Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, Harrisburgh; Rev. David Denny

Chambersburgh; Rev. Francis Herron, Rocky Spring; Rev. Patrick Davidson, Tom's Creek and Piney Creek; Rev. Joshua Williams, Big Spring; Rev. David McConnaughy, Upper Marsh Creek and Great Connewago; Rev. Robert Kennedy, East and West Connegocheague; Rev. Amos A. McGinley, Upper and Lower Path Valley; Rev. John Moody, Middle Spring. The Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, Rev. John Slemons, and Rev. Daniel Jones, without pastoral charges. *Licentiate*—Mr. Joseph Brady. *Vacancies*—Able to support a pastor, Paxton and Derry, united; Tuscarora and Falling Waters, united; Sherman's Creek, Mouth of Juniata, and Middle Ridge, united. Not able, Bedford, Williamsport, Hagerstown, and Great Cove.

6. The Presbytery of Huntingdon, which consists of seventeen ministers, viz: The Rev. Matthew Stevens, pastor of Shaver's Creek; Rev. James Johnson, East Kishacoquillas, and Dry Valley; Rev. John Johnson, Huntingdon, and Hartslog; Rev. John Bryson, Chillisquaque and Warrior's Run; Rev. Hugh Morrison, Sunbury and Northumberland; Rev. Isaac Grier, Pine Creek; Rev. John B. Patterson, Derry and Mahoning: Rev. Alexander McIlvaine, Upper Tuscarora and Aughwick; Rev. John Coulter, Lower and Middle Tuscarora; Rev. William Stuart, Sinking Creek, Spring Creek, and East Penn's Valley; Rev. Matthew Brown, Mifflin, and Lost Creek; Rev. Henry R. Wilson, Bellefont and Lick Run; Rev. John Hoge, Rev. Hugh Magill, Rev. David Bard, Rev. Asa Dunham, and Rev. Samuel Bryson, without pastoral charge. *Licentiate*—Mr. William Jackson. *Vacancies*—Able to support a pastor, Frankstown, Lewistown, and Wayne, united. Buffalo and White Deer, united. Spruce Creek and Sinking Valley, united. Not able, Millerstown, Lycoming, Muncey, Great Island, Sandy Lick, Hare's Valley, Brier Creek, and Shamokin.

The Synod of Pittsburgh exhibited a report without date, stating that they consist of three Presbyteries, as follows, viz:

1. The Presbytery of Redstone, consisting of eleven ministers, viz: Rev. James Power, pastor of Mount Pleasant; Rev. Joseph Henderson, Ebenezer and Bethel; Rev. Jacob Jennings, Dunlap's Creek and Little Redstone; Rev. Robert Steel, Pittsburgh; Rev. Samuel Porter, Congruity; Rev. George Hill, Fairfield and Donnegal; Rev. William Swan, Long Run and Sewickly; Rev. William Speer, Unity and Greensburgh; Rev. James Adams, George's Creek and Union; Rev. Francis Laird, Polk Run and Plumb Creek; Rev. John McPherrin, without a charge. *Licentiates*—Messrs. James McClean, John Wright, James Guthrie. *Vacancies*—Salem, Laurel Hill, Pitts Township; Morgantown and Middletown, united; Rehoboth and Round Hill, united, able to support a pastor; McKeesport, Tyrone, Union Town, Sandy Creek, Crossings, Clarksburgh, Tyger's Valley, Somerset, Quemmahoning, and Wheatfield, not able to support a pastor.

2. The Presbytery of Ohio, consisting of eighteen ministers, viz: The Rev. John McMillan, pastor of Chartiers; Rev. Joseph Patterson, Raccoon; Rev. James Hughes, Short Creek and Lower Buffalo; Rev. John Brice, Three Ridges and Wheeling; Rev. Thomas Marques, Cross Creek; Rev. Thomas Moor, Ten Mile; Rev. Samuel Ralston, Mingo Creek and Horse Shoe Bottom; Rev. William Woods, Bethel and Lebanon; Rev. John Anderson, Upper Buffalo; Rev. George Scott, Mill Creek and the Flats; Rev. Andrew Gwinn, Pigeon Creek and Pike Run; Rev. Joseph Anderson, Rich Lands and Short Creek; Rev. John McClean, Montiers; Rev. Elisha McCurdy, Cross Roads and Three Springs; Rev. James Snodgrass, Steubenville and Island Creek; Rev. James Dunlap, Miller's Run; Rev. Stephen Lindsley, Marietta; Rev. Boyd Mercer, without a charge. *Licentiates*—Messrs. Cephas Dodd, and Jacob Lindly. *Vacancies*—Washington, able to

support a minister; New Lancaster and Rush Creek, united, able; Waynesburgh, Charles Town, Grave Creek, Yellow Creek, and Long's Run, not able.

3. The Presbytery of Erie, consisting of thirteen ministers, viz: The Rev. Thomas Hughes, Mount Pleasant and New Salem; Rev. William Wick, Hopewell and Young's Town; Rev. Samuel Tate, Cool Spring and Upper Salem; Rev. Joseph Stockton, Meadville and Sugar Creek; Rev. Robert Lee, Rocky Spring and Amity; Rev. William Wiley, Fairfield, Upper and Lower Sandy Creek; Rev. James Sattersfield, Moorfield and Neshannick; Rev. John Boyd, Union and Slate Lick; Rev. Abraham Boyd, Bull Creek and Middlesex; Rev. William Woods, Centre and Plain Grove; Rev. Alexander Cook, Slippery Rock and New Castle; Rev. Robert Patterson, Upper and Lower Greenfield; Rev. Joseph Badger, without a charge. *Licentiate*—Mr. Robert Johnstone. *Vacancies*—Westfield and Poland, able to support a minister; Gravel Run and Conniatte Lake, able; Concord and Muddy Creek, able; Warren, Mount Pleasant, Salt Springs, Beulah, Trumbull, Pymatuning, Middle Brook, Broken Straw, Oil Creek, Foster's Mill, Springfield, Franklin, Break Neck, and Highlands, not able to support a pastor.

The Synod of Virginia exhibited a report, bearing date October, 1803, whereby they state, that the Synod consists of four Presbyteries, as follows:

1. The Presbytery of Hanover, consisting of twelve ministers, viz: The Rev. Dr. James Waddel, pastor of Bell Grove; Rev. Archibald McRobert, Old Concord and Hat Creek; Rev. James Mitchel, The Peaks; Rev. John D. Blair, Richmond and Hanover; Rev. Drury Lacey, Cumberland; Rev. James Turner, The Peaks; Rev. Archibald Alexander, Cumberland and Briery; Rev. Matthew Lyle, Buffalo and Briery; Rev. James Robinson, The Cove, and stated supply at Rock Fish; Rev. John Todd, The Bird and Providence; Rev. William Irwin, without a charge; Rev. William Calhoon, D. S. *Licentiate*—Mr. James Tompkins. *Vacancies*—Blue Stone, in Mecklenburgh; Chesnut, in Franklin; Sandy River and New Erection, in Pittsylvania; Cub Creek and Little Concord, in Charlotte; Smith's River, in Patrick county, and Norfolk.

2. The Presbytery of Lexington, consisting of ten ministers, viz: The Rev. William Wilson, Pastor of Augusta Church; Rev. John McCue, Tinkling Spring; Rev. Samuel Houston, Falling Spring and High Bridge; Rev. Benjamin Grigsby, Louisburgh and Concord; Rev. Samuel Brown, New Providence; Rev. George A. Baxter, New Monmouth and Lexington; Rev. Daniel Blane, Timber Ridge and Oxford; Rev. Robert Logan, Fincastle and Roanoke; Rev. Messrs. John Montgomery and Benjamin Ervin, without pastoral charges. *Licentiate*—Mr. William McPheeters. *Vacancies*—Bethel and Brown's Meeting House, able to support a minister; Rocky Spring, Lebanon, and Windy Cove, united, able; Harrisonburgh, Mossy Creek, and New Erection, united, able; Head of Roanoke, Craig's Creek, William Davidson's, Little's, Levels of Green Briar, Bull and Cow Pastures, not able.

3. The Presbytery of Winchester, consisting of seven ministers, viz: The Rev. Moses Hoge, pastor of Shepherd's Town; Rev. Nash Le Grand, Opekon and Cedar Creek; Rev. William Hill, Hopewell; Rev. William Williamson, South River and Flint Run; Rev. John Lyle, Rumney, Frankfort, and Springfield; Rev. Joseph Glass, Middletown and Back Creek; Rev. Amos Thompson, no charge. *Licentiate*—Mr. John Mines. *Vacancies*—Concrete and Winchester, able each to support a minister; Lost River, Capen, Lancaster, and Charlestown, not able.

4. The Presbytery of Abingdon, from which no report has been received since the last report of Synod to the General Assembly.

The Synod of the Carolinas exhibited a report, bearing date the 8th day of October, 1803, stating that said Synod contains seven Presbyteries, as follows, viz :

1. The Presbytery of Orange, consisting of twelve ministers, of whom ten have pastoral charges. This Presbytery has under its care four licentiates, and nine vacancies; six of which are able to support three ministers, and three are not yet able to support a gospel minister.

2. The First Presbytery of South Carolina, consisting of eleven ministers, six of whom have pastoral charges. This Presbytery has under its care four licentiates, and twenty-four vacancies; of which two are able to support a pastor, each; ten are able to support five pastors; and four others united are able to support one pastor; and the residue are not yet in a condition to support a stated gospel minister.

3. The Presbytery of Concord, consisting of twelve ministers, of whom ten have pastoral charges. This Presbytery has under its care one licentiate, and nineteen vacancies; of which four are able each to support a pastor, four others are able to support two pastors, and the residue are not able to support a stated gospel minister.

4. The Presbytery of Hopewell. 5. The Presbytery of Union. 6. The Second Presbytery of South Carolina. 7. The Presbytery of Greenville. From the four last, the Synod have received no report since their last to the General Assembly.

On motion, it was

*Resolved*, That the annual Synodical reports, together with the corresponding duplicates of the Presbyteries, instead of being read in the Assembly, shall hereafter be subjected to the examination of the committees appointed to examine the records of the several Synods; and that the committees make report of their accuracy to the General Assembly.

A motion was made and seconded, to reconsider the resolution immediately preceding. The question to agree to this motion was determined in the negative.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 19*th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Amzi Armstrong appeared in the house as a commissioner from the Presbytery of New York. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

On motion, It was unanimously agreed to re-consider the decision of last evening, respecting the disposition to be made of the Synodical reports, and corresponding Presbyterial reports.

A motion was then made and seconded, to rescind the same.

The question to agree to this motion was determined in the affirmative. The following was then proposed and agreed to as a substitute.

With a view more fully to perfect the general regulations on the subject of reports from inferior to superior judicatories, adopted by the Assembly of last year, it was, on motion,

*Resolved*, That the usual Synodical reports to the General Assembly, and the corresponding duplicates from the Presbyteries, instead of being read in Assembly, shall hereafter be committed to a special committee to report thereon; and that instead of adding in their duplicate reports to the Assembly, the amount of the collection made by each church, for the funds of the Assembly, as is prescribed in the 4th article of the General Regulation, the Presbyteries be required to make a distinct report on this subject to the

Assembly, and that all reports giving information on missionary business, be made to the standing Committee of Missions.

Agreeably to the foregoing resolution, the Synodical reports and duplicate reports from the Presbyteries, exhibited, or to be exhibited during the present sessions, were committed to Messrs. Francis Latta, Samuel Brown, and James McLene, to consider and report thereon.

A communication was received from the Synod of Kentucky, requesting that the Assembly would permit them to print and publish an edition of the Confession of Faith and Plan of Government, &c., of the Presbyterian Church.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the same be committed to Dr. Tennent, Mr. Lindley, and Mr. Kennedy, to consider and report thereon as soon as may be convenient.

A letter was received from the Rev. David Rice of the Presbytery of Transylvania, requesting, in behalf of that Presbytery, the advice of this Assembly respecting the licensure of persons to preach or exhort, who have not received a liberal education.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Rogers, Smith, Cooper, and Hall, the Rev. Mr. Brown, and Messrs. Bayard, and McLene, be a committee to take this letter into consideration, and report thereon to this Assembly.

A letter was received signed by the Rev. Messrs. James Blythe, John Lyle, and Robert Stuart, as a committee of the Presbytery of West Lexington, praying the attention of this Assembly to the unhappy division which has taken place in the Synod of Kentucky; and that measures may be taken by the Assembly for healing the breach, or at least preventing the extension of it. Certain pamphlets accompanying the said letter, were also laid before the Assembly.

Ordered, That the said letter and accompaniments be the order of the day for Monday next.

An inquiry was instituted, whether the Presbyteries have complied with the order of the last Assembly, requiring them to report to the standing Committee of Missions, such information on the missionary business as may be useful.

It appeared, in consequence, that the Presbyteries have generally attended to the subject, and that those who had any such information to give, have duly reported the same.

The delegates to the last General Association reported,

"That they all attended except Dr. Rogers; were received and treated with usual cordiality and respect; observed with pleasure the prompt, harmonious, and orderly manner in which the Association transacted their business, which principally related to the order and government of the churches under their immediate care; were particularly gratified in seeing them still pursuing the great missionary object with a steady and increasing zeal, as well as with growing prospects of success. They have chosen but two delegates to attend the General Assembly, having appointed substitutes; judging this the most effectual measure to secure the desired representation. They have determined the next meeting of the General Association to be held at North Haven."

The Assembly

*Resolved*, That they will, this year, hold an election for the purpose of choosing Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church; and that this be the order for Friday next, 4 o'clock, P. M.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 10 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 21*st*, 10 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. George McIlvaine, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the house as a commissioner from that Presbytery; his commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

Mr. William Montgomery, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of Huntingdon, appeared in the house as a commissioner from that Presbytery; his commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

The Rev. Jonas Coe appeared in the house as a commissioner from the Presbytery of Columbia; his commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly took into consideration the letter from the Rev. Dr. Buist, in behalf of the Presbytery of Charleston. After some consideration of the subject of this letter, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That Dr. Smith, Dr. Hall, and Mr. Clark, be a committee to prepare a minute expressive of the sense of the Assembly on this subject, and to lay the same before the house for consideration.

The Assembly took into consideration the subject of the breach in the Synod of Kentucky. After reading a pamphlet on the subject, purporting to be a circular letter from the Synod of Kentucky, they adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

*Resolved*, That the delegates from this Assembly who shall attend the General Association of Connecticut the current year, be paid two dollars for every forty miles they shall necessarily travel, in going to and returning from the place of meeting, and one dollar for each day they shall attend their duty in the Association.

Pursuant to a nomination made on Saturday last, the Assembly proceeded to elect three delegates to attend the General Association of Connecticut, to meet at North Haven the third Tuesday of June next.

A ballot being taken, the Rev. Messrs. Philip Milledoler, Robert Cathcart, and Isaac Lewis, were duly chosen.

*Resolved*, That the Permanent Clerk furnish the said delegates with an attested copy of this record, which shall serve as their commission.

The Assembly resumed the subject of the division in the Synod of Kentucky. A pamphlet, which appears to have been published by certain persons styling themselves "The Presbytery of Springfield," had been laid before the house.

The Assembly read the same at large to page 61, comprising that part which purports to be "An Apology for renouncing the jurisdiction of the Synod of Kentucky."

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 22*d*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Agreeably to an appointment made by the standing Committee of Missions, the Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith, President of the College of New Jersey, delivered last evening in this church a missionary sermon, from John iv. 35: "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest."

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the said committee be directed to present the thanks of this Assembly to Dr. Smith for his sermon, and to request a copy for publication.

*Resolved*, That the committee take early measures for printing a sufficient number of copies of the said sermon, that they may be circulated and sold, and the profits applied to missionary purposes.

The Assembly proceeded to appoint supplies for the pulpits of the delegates chosen yesterday to attend the General Association of Connecticut.

The Rev. John E. Latta was ordered to supply Mr. Cathcart's pulpit at Hopewell the second Sabbath of June next; Mr. Arthur, at York; and Mr. Francis A. Latta, at Hopewell, the first Sabbath of July next.

The Rev. Joshua Knight was appointed to supply Mr. Lewis' pulpit the fourth Sabbath of June; and Mr. Peter Fish the first Sabbath of July.

Mr. Milledoler having informed the Assembly that provision had been made by the Presbytery of Philadelphia for supplying his pulpit during the period of his expected absence, no supplies were appointed for his pulpit.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the subject of the division in the Synod of Kentucky. Finding that time would not admit of their reading the remainder of the pamphlet, purporting to be a publication of the Presbytery of Springfield, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That Dr. Smith, Dr. Hall, Mr. Clark, and the Moderator, be a committee to read and consider the said pamphlet, and to take the whole subject into consideration, and to report to this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures laid before the Assembly a memorial and appeal of the Trustees and Elders of the Presbyterian church of Pittsburgh, with a protest, accompanied with sundry papers.

*Resolved*, That this subject be the order for to-morrow.

The Assembly proceeded, agreeably to the order of the day, to a free conversation on the general state of religion within the bounds of the Assembly. The members, being called in the order of the roll, gave such information on this subject, as their local situation enabled them to give. Having made some progress, the Assembly

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Robert Wilson appeared in the house as a commissioner from the Second Presbytery of South Carolina. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

The Assembly resumed the free conversation on the general state of religion, and not having time to conclude the same, deferred a farther attention to the subject till to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Robert Wilson be added to the committee to whom was referred the letter of the Rev. Dr. Buist.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 23*d*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the free conversation on the general state of religion. Accounts on this subject were received from most of the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly; and the delegates from the General

Association of Connecticut communicated some interesting information respecting the appearances of religion in that state.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Drs. Rodgers, Smith, and Hall, and Messrs. Coe and Wilson, be a committee to prepare a draught of a pastoral letter to the churches under the care of the General Assembly, stating and enforcing the special duties incumbent on ministers and people at the present crisis, and lay the same before this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

The standing Committee of Missions appeared before the Assembly, and made a report, exhibiting a statement of the missionary business under their direction, and suggesting some plans for its improvement and success.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. William Brown, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of Carlisle, appeared in the house as a commissioner from that Presbytery. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

The committee to whom was referred the letter of the Rev. Dr. Buist, made their report, which being considered, was adopted, and is as follows:

"A letter from the Rev. Dr. Buist was presented to the Assembly by the Committee of Overtures, and read, requesting, in behalf of the Presbytery of Charleston in South Carolina, that they may be received into connection with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, without connecting themselves with the Synod of the Carolinas.

Inasmuch as this subject has been regularly before the Assembly in the year 1800, and certain resolutions adopted thereon, which appear not to have been complied with, and the application comes before the Assembly in an informal manner.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly cannot now act upon the representation of Dr. Buist; but

*Resolved*, farther, That Dr. Smith be appointed to write to Dr. Buist, informing him, and through him, the Presbytery of Charleston, that this Assembly are by no means indisposed to admit that Presbytery to a union with their body, upon a plan which may be hereafter agreed upon; provided, that the application for that purpose come before them in an orderly manner from the Presbytery of Charleston; provided farther, that it shall be made to appear to the Assembly that the difficulties of their situation or other circumstances, render it inexpedient for that Presbytery to be connected immediately with the Synod of the Carolinas; and provided that they give the requisite assurance to the Assembly, that the Presbytery and the churches under their care do fully adopt the standards of doctrine and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America."

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly took into consideration the communications from Pittsburgh. The memorial and appeal, the protest, with the several papers accompanying the same, were read and considered. After some deliberation, the Assembly found that a certain document, affecting the issue, was wanting, and could not immediately be produced, and therefore deferred a farther attention to the subject till to-morrow morning.

The Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly, agreeably to charter, laid before the Assembly a statement of the accounts of the Corporation.

*Resolved*, That the same be committed to Messrs. Bayard and Agnew, to consider and report thereon.

A communication from the Convention of the Congregational Ministers in the state of Vermont, was received and read. From this it appears, that the Convention have ratified, on their part, the Plan of Union and Correspondence, (agreed upon and transmitted to them by the last General Assembly,) with one exception, viz: that the Convention, considering the smallness of their number, and distance from the Assembly's usual place of meeting, cannot promise to send an annual delegation to the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly accept and ratify, on their part and behalf, the said Plan of Union and Correspondence, with the exception aforesaid; and that the Assembly will, for the present year, send one delegate to attend the next meeting of the Convention.

*Resolved*, That the Permanent Clerk furnish the delegate who shall be chosen as aforesaid, with an attested copy of the foregoing record, to be laid before the Convention.

*Resolved*, That the said delegate receive two dollars for every forty miles he shall necessarily travel, in going to and returning from the place of meeting, and one dollar per day during the time he shall attend his duty in the Convention.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly will hold an election on Friday next, at 4 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of choosing a delegate as aforesaid; and that they will at the same hour elect four ministers and three elders, to constitute the Committee of Missions for the ensuing year.

The committee appointed by last Assembly to consider the expediency of publishing a new edition of the Confession of Faith, &c., of this Church; to consider whether any, and if any, what alterations ought to be made in the said Confession of Faith, &c., and to make preparatory arrangements on this subject, exhibited their report.

The report being read, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That it be laid on the table, and that the consideration of it be the order for next Friday morning.

A communication was received from the Trustees of the General Assembly, informing that they have elected Mr. Isaac Snowden, jr., Treasurer, and the Rev. Philip Milledoler, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, for the ensuing year. That they have appointed Messrs. Robert Ralston, Jonathan Smith, and William Haslet, a committee to receive and liquidate all such accounts, as the General Assembly shall refer to the Board for that purpose. That certain books purchased for the Corporation by Dr. Rodgers, and ordered to be sold, remain in the hands of the Treasurer, subject to the orders of the General Assembly. That most of the said books are suitable for distribution among the poor and on the frontiers; and the Corporation request the Assembly to direct how they shall be disposed of.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the subject presented to them by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, respecting the Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh. The papers relating to this subject were again read.

The Assembly perceiving from these, that the case before them was an appeal from a decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, the minutes of that Synod affecting the case were read. The Rev. Mr. Steele, having been appointed by the appellants as their commissioner for prosecuting the appeal, was heard in support of it. The members of the Synod, who are members of this Assembly, were heard in defence of the decision of Synod.

The parties having been fully heard, a motion was made and seconded, that the decision of the Synod be confirmed. The question to agree to this motion was determined in the affirmative.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk transmit to the church of Pittsburgh an attested copy of the above record.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly grant a warrant in favour of the Rev. Mr. Milledoler, the Stated Clerk of the Assembly, for the following sums of money, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| For his salary the last year, - - - - - - - | $40 00 |
| For the postage of letters received by him as Stated Clerk, | 60 |
| Toward purchasing a blank book for recording the minutes, | 10 00 |
| Total, | $50 60 |

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk receive the same compensation for the ensuing year as was allowed for his services the past year.

The Synods who manage the missionary business in their separate capacity, were called upon to make the annual report required to be made by them on this subject.

The Rev. James Hughes, in behalf of the Synod of Pittsburgh, informed the Assembly, that their Synod had neglected to make a report on this subject. From the minutes of Synod, however, he satisfied the Assembly, that they have attended to the missionary business; that they sent out one missionary last fall, to itinerate for one month in the settlements adjacent to Lake Erie; one other missionary to spend one month, and one to spend two months in the settlements down the Ohio river.

The Synod of Virginia exhibited a written report, stating, that in the course of the last year, the Synod have employed two ordained ministers as missionaries for six months each; four other ordained ministers for two months each; that the said missionaries were employed in several destitute places within the bounds of the Synod; that the Synod also employed for two months Mr. John Chavis, a licentiate, who was directed to confine his labours chiefly to the people of colour.

*Resolved*, That the Synods of Virginia, Pittsburgh, and of the Carolinas, be careful to forward to each General Assembly regular written reports of their diligence and success in the missionary business.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

A written report was received from the Second Presbytery of South Carolina, stating that the Presbytery has duly considered the amendment proposed to be made in the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of the Constitution; that being of opinion that by the words *standing rules* in the Constitution is intended *constitutional rules*, no alteration in the Constitution appears necessary.

The Assembly were informed that the Synod met and was duly organized, agreeably to the constitution thereof by the last General Assembly.

The Assembly called upon the agents appointed to solicit donations for the permanent fund of the General Assembly, to report.

It appeared, in consequence, that Mr. Clark, Mr. Hoge, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Coe, (in behalf of Mr. Williams,) have made some progress in this business, and paid the moneys they have received to the Treasurer.

*Resolved*, That those who have heretofore received appointments, as agents for procuring contributions to the permanent fund, continue their exertions during the ensuing year, at discretion; that they especially endeavour to collect the sums already subscribed, and prepare to settle their accounts finally, during the sessions of the next General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be directed to pay attention to the orders given them by the last General Assembly, to send missionaries to destitute places within the limits of the Synod of Kentucky; and to send a minister or licentiate to preach, with a view to settlement, in a certain Presbyterian Society in Ontario county, in the state of New York, whose petition was referred to the committee by last Assembly.

The Assembly received and read a petition from the Presbyterian church of Tuscarora, in Berkley county, Virginia, praying that the said church may be taken from under the care of the Presbytery of Carlisle, and placed under the care of the Presbytery of Winchester.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Assembly that the Presbyteries concerned are consenting to this measure, it was

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The meeting for special prayer, and other religious exercises, was duly attended last evening, in the Second Presbyterian church in this city, agreeably to the appointment made by this Assembly the 25th instant.

The report of the standing Committee of Missions was committed to Dr. Hall, Messrs. Linn and Inglis, who were directed to examine the same, and report such articles as may, in their opinion, require the farther attention and agency of the Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported. The report being considered, the records were approved to page 261, inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported. The report being considered, the records were approved (a few inaccuracies excepted) to page 20, inclusive.

The committee to whom was referred the letter from the Rev. David Rice, reported the draught of a letter purporting to be an answer from this Assembly to the letter of Mr. Rice.

The draught being considered and amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

"*Dear Sir*—Your letter of the 18th of April has been regularly laid before the General Assembly, and although it ought to have been accompanied with an extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Transylvania, yet the Assembly having perfect confidence in you, easily waived that formality.

The inquiry which you propose, in the name of the Presbytery, concerning the propriety, in your present circumstances, of licensing and ordaining men to the work of the gospel ministry, without a liberal education, is certainly of great magnitude. Considering the great and ardent zeal on the subject of religion which has been awakened throughout so large a portion of the United States, the multitudes who are earnestly demanding of you the bread of life, and the few, comparatively, who are regularly ordained to break it among them; the reasoning seems specious at first, which would encourage us, in the instances you mention, to depart from the spirit of our standards on this subject; and some plausible facts frequently occur which appear to confirm this reasoning, and mislead the judgments of many honest and well meaning men. On all subjects on which the human mind is roused to uncommon exertions and inflamed with uncommon ardour, men become eloquent for a season, and even the most weak and ignorant often surprise us by the fluency and pertinency, as well as fervour of their expressions. And in general revivals of the spirit of religion, that copiousness and pathos in prayer and exhortation, which are not uncommonly to be found among men who are destitute of any liberal culture of mind, and often even of any considerable natural talents, may tempt themselves, and lead others to conclude, that they are endued with peculiar and extraordinary gifts for the service of the Church, which ought not to be suffered to lie useless and unemployed.

An ardent zeal, too often united with a certain spiritual pride, and strong self-love, is apt to inspire some weak persons of an enthusiastic temperament, with vehement impulses to preach the gospel, which they flatter themselves are calls from heaven; but experience has repeatedly shown us, that these inward impulses most commonly affect men of great imbecility of mind, or of strong vanity. Experience farther shows, that when this fervour is somewhat abated, all their barrenness and defect of furniture for the holy ministry, and the sound interpretation of the sacred Scriptures, become manifest; and too many unhappy examples have occurred of those who have abandoned good morals when deserted by their zeal. And with regard to supposed calls to preach the gospel, no man can be rightly called to that sacred office out of the regular order which Christ has established in his church; no such inward call can be judged of by any church judicatory, nor distinguished by any certain criterion from the visionary impulses of enthusiasm. The judicatories of the church can judge only of the life and conversation of men, their knowledge and their talents to teach.

Besides, we know that the nature of true religion is to render men humble. And such is the solemnity and importance of the duty of interpreting the word of God to the people, and speaking in his name, that a sincere penitent will rather wait to be sought out, than forwardly intrude himself into so holy a calling. And do we not find in fact, that they are not usually the most prudent, judicious, and qualified to teach among the laity, who are most solicitous to be constituted public guides and instructers in the church?

We do not say that a liberal education is absolutely essential to a man's usefulness in the ministry of the gospel; but reason and experience both demonstrate its high importance and utility. And where ignorant men are permitted to explain the Holy Scriptures, it ought to be subject to the direction and control of others of greater knowledge. But this is an order which it has not been thought proper to adopt in the Presbyterian church. And the superior comparative prosperity and usefulness of our church, and that of our eastern brethren, which is similarly constituted, is a demonstration by no means equivocal, of the approbation and smiles of heaven upon us, in the exercise of our present form of government and discipline. But, were our opinion on this subject different from what it is, we cannot lawfully and conscientiously depart from our present standards, till they be changed in an orderly manner, by the consent of a majority of the Presbyteries which compose the body of the General Assembly.

You express your apprehensions, lest, if certain illiterate and unqualified men should not be admitted to the ministry of the gospel among you, they may withdraw from the church and become the promoters of dangerous schisms. We answer, the path of duty is a safe path. Do what is right, and commit the event to God. If they are men of such a spirit, it is only a new proof that they are most unfit for the office to which they aspire. Parties created by them, will neither be important nor durable. But if the gates of the church are opened to weakness and ignorance, she will soon be overflowed with errors, and with the wildest disorders. We shall bring the ministry into disgrace and contempt, which should be like the priesthood of Aaron, without blemish. If men are sincerely desirous of promoting the glory of God, let them first bestow the necessary pains and time to acquire the requisite qualifications for feeding and leading the flock of Christ; let them be regularly initiated into the priesthood, and not hasten to offer unhallowed fire on God's altar. If they are sincerely desirous of doing good, let them do it in that sphere in which they appear destined by providence to move. In this, every Christian, the poorest and humblest, has ample scope to exercise his pious and benevolent dispositions, and to exert his talents, whatever they may be.

Notwithstanding the preceding reflections, it is the opinion of this Assembly, that where the field of labour is too extensive for the ordinary and regular ministry, certain assistants, like the helps or catechists of the primitive church, may, under proper restrictions and limitations, be usefully employed in instructing the young in the principles of our holy religion, and conducting the praying and voluntary societies of private Christians. Great caution, however, ought to be used in employing such an order of men, lest an indiscreet zeal should impel them to extravagances which may prove dishonourable and injurious to religion, or lest, being lifted up with pride, they come at length to spurn the authority which has appointed them, create divisions in the church, and so fall into the condemnation of the devil. In some parts of the church their utility might be very great, while in others, they would prove not only useless, but dangerous. It must be left solely to the regular and established judicatories of the church, according to the circumstances which may exist within their respective limits, to judge upon this subject. But wherever it may be thought expedient to resort to such helps, we give it as our advice that none be employed but men of prudent and sound minds, as well as of sincere piety; men who are humble and willing to submit to order, as well as zealous in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let their duties be clearly pointed out to them, and circumscribed within precise limits. And under the direction of the Presbytery, let them, as frequently as possible, be visited, and their conduct inspected, to see how far they are both able and faithful in discharge of the trust committed to them. They are not to be considered as standing officers in the church; but may be appointed, or removed, at the discretion of the Presbytery. But, if any, upon full experience, are found to possess uncommon talents, are diligent to acquire the requisite qualifications for preaching the gospel, and promise to be eminently useful in the church, they may, in time, purchase to themselves a good degree, and be admitted, according to the regular course, to the holy ministry. These things we leave to your prudence,

And are, Dear Sir, your brethren and fellow labourers, &c.

Signed by order, &c. MODERATOR."

From that part of the above letter, which provides for the appointment of catechists, the following members entered their dissent: Amzi Armstrong, George Potts, James Inglis, Robert Cooper.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing letter be signed by the Moderator, addressed and sent to Mr. Rice, to be communicated to the Presbytery of Transylvania.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to consider the report of the committee appointed by last Assembly, to make preparatory arrangements for publishing a new edition of the Confession of Faith, &c., and having made some progress, they

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Agreeably to a resolution of the house on Saturday last, the Assembly took up the subject of electing persons to serve as Trustees of the General Assembly. The Rev. Joseph Clark and Mr. Andrew Bayard, having communicated their desires to resign their seats in the Board of Trustees,

The Rev. Dr. John Woodhull, and Mr. Robert Smith, of the city of Philadelphia, merchant, were duly elected to serve as Trustees in their stead.

The Assembly resolved to make no farther change in the Board of Trustees for the present year.

The Rev. Jonas Coe was chosen a delegate from this General Assembly to the next convention of the Congregational Ministers of the state of Vermont.

*Resolved*, That the Permanent Clerk furnish Mr. Coe with an attested copy of the above record, which shall serve as his commission.

The Rev. Drs. Blair and Green, the Rev. Messrs. Milledoler and Janeway, Messrs. Ebenezer Hazard, Dr. Elias Boudinot, and Robert Smith, were chosen members of the standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year.

A reference from the Synod of Pittsburgh to the General Assembly, respecting a certain marriage, was received, and made the order for to-morrow.

The committee to whom was referred the report of the standing committee of Missions, reported, and exhibited a schedule containing several articles demanding (in their opinion) the attention of the Assembly.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the report of the Committee on the Constitution, and having made farther progress,

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 26*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the report of the Committee on the Constitution, and having gone through the same by paragraphs, and made several amendments, adopted it as follows:

"After a very serious attention to the subject committed to them, your committee have resolved to propose no alteration whatever, in the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of our church, and are clearly of opinion, that none ought to be attempted.

The creed of every church, as it ought to be derived immediately and wholly from the word of God, must be considered as standing on ground considerably different from that which supports the system of forms and regulations, by which worship shall be conducted and government administered. And if it be once rightly settled, can never be altered with propriety by any change of time, or external circumstances of the church.

Circumstances, indeed, may render it proper, in deducing a summary of faith from the Scripture, to dwell more largely and particularly on some points at one time than would be necessary at another; and every attentive and intelligent reader of our standards will probably remark, that the state of the church when our Confession and Catechisms were formed, was, in fact, the cause that its pious and learned authors expressed their sentiments on certain topics, especially such as relate to the controversies between Protestants and papists, more largely than would now be necessary, if the whole were to be formed anew. But still, as those sentiments are, we conceive, just in themselves, and as the particular delineation of them can do no harm, and will sometimes prove a guide both to the clergy and laity of our communion, we cannot wish to see any retrenchment made. It would give alarm to many of our people, who might suspect that this was but the introduction to innovations of more importance. And your committee will take the liberty to remark, that it is by no means to be considered as a vulgar or unfounded prejudice, when alarm is excited, by alterations and innovations in the creed of a Church. There are many reasons of the most weighty kind, that will dispose every man of sound judgment and accurate observation, to regard a spirit of change in this particular, as an evil pregnant with a host of mischiefs. It leads the infidel to say, and with apparent plausibility, that there can be no truth clearly revealed in Scripture; because not only its friends, of various sects, but of the same sect, pretend to see truths in it at one time, which, at another, they discover and declare to be falsehood. It hurts the minds of weak believers, by suggesting to them the same thought. It destroys the confidence of the people generally, in those who maintain a system which is liable to constant fluctuations. It violates settled and useful habits. It encourages those who are influenced by the vanity of attempting to improve what wise men have executed, or by mere love of novelty, to give constant disturbance to the church by their crude proposals of amendment. And it is actually found to open the door to lasting uneasiness, constant altercation, and finally, to the adoption of errors, a thousand fold more dangerous and hurtful than any that shall have been corrected. In a word, what was true when our Confession and Catechisms were formed, is now true. We believe that this truth has been most admirably and accurately drawn into view in these excellent performances. They have become venerable from their age. Our church has flourished under their influence; and we can see no reason to alter them. If there are a few things (and few they must be, and of less importance, if they exist at all) which it might be shown could be expressed more correctly, and in a manner less liable to objection, it is not proper, with a view to obtain this, to expose ourselves to the great inconveniences and injuries that have been specified.

Leaving, then, the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of our church untouched, your committee took into consideration the Form of Government, Directory for Worship, and Forms of Process. These, as has already been hinted, were considered as standing on other ground than our creeds. The word of God in regard to these is much less specific and particular than on articles of faith. Many things in this part of a church organization are, and must be, left to Christian prudence, and modified by the peculiar circumstances of religious societies, guided by the general lights which the Scripture holds forth. Here churches in one country may, and perhaps ought to differ from those of another. We have already differed very considerably from the church of Scotland, from which we derive our origin; and as it is difficult, perhaps impossible, for any man or body of men, to anticipate all the circumstances or cases which may turn up in practice under a general rule or law, which is framed to provide for them, experience will point out some errors and many deficiencies, and thus may suggest many real amendments—amendments, too, not liable to the most material objections that have been stated in the former case. On this part of our ecclesiastical polity, then, the work in some measure of our own hands, the committee have ventured to propose a considerable number of amendments, remarking, however, and begging that the remark may be particularly regarded, that the alterations proposed are of such a nature, that if the whole of them should be adopted, they would not alter, but only explain, render more practicable, and bring nearer to perfection, the general system which has already gone into use.

The committee having thus shortly detailed to the Assembly the principles by which they have been governed, and which they wished to do for their own justification, as well as to fulfil so important a part of what they considered their duty, have only to call the attention of the Assembly to the alterations proposed, leaving it to such members of the committee as are also members of the Assembly, to explain the reasons on which the proposed alterations have been offered.

## AMENDMENTS.

No. 1.—Chap. VIII. Sect. 1. Add to this section—of whom three elders, if there be that number in the congregation, with the minister, shall be a quorum to do business.

No. 2.—Chap. X. Sect. 1. Strike out "so a Synod is the convention of several Presbyteries* within a larger district;" and insert—so a Synod is a convention of the Bishops and Elders within a larger district, including several Presbyteries.

No. 3.—Insert a new section between the first and second in this chapter, in the following words:—Any seven ministers of the Synod who shall convene at the time and place of meeting, with as many elders as may be present, shall be a quorum to transact Synodical business; provided not more than four of the said ministers belong to one Presbytery.†

No. 4.—Chap. XI. Sect. 6. To be altered in the manner which has been proposed to the Presbyteries by the General Assembly, viz. change the words "Standing rules" into—Constitutional rules.‡

No. 5.—Chap. XII. add to Section 2—But in all cases the persons elected must be male communicating members in the church in which they are to exercise their office.

No. 6.—Chap. XIV. Sect. 1.§ After the word "probationer," add—or probationers.

No. 7.—Do. Strike out "disposed to receive him as their minister," and insert—prepared to elect a pastor.

No. 8.—Do. Strike out "preparing a call for him," and insert—conducting the election contemplated.

No. 9.—Sect. 2. Strike out "prepare a call for . . . . . to be their pastor," and insert—proceed to the election of a pastor for that congregation.

No. 10.—Sect. 3. Strike out "in the case of . . . . . whether or not he shall be chosen to be their minister," and insert—for a pastor, if such be their desire, and when this desire shall be expressed by a majority of voices; he shall then proceed to take the votes for a pastor.

---

*Notes adopted by a subsequent resolution of the Assembly.*

* Under this section of the existing Constitution it has been doubted, whether the members can proceed to business as a Synod, unless there are present *several Presbyteries*, i. e. at least three ministers from one of the existing Presbyteries, and three from another. The doubt has not only caused delay in several instances, but defeated the whole business of one entire meeting. This amendment, therefore, goes to make a Synod consist, *not of Presbyteries*, but, as it ought, of *Bishops and Elders*.

† In some of the Synods lately formed, (and others such may hereafter be formed,) consisting only of three Presbyteries, and these spread over a vast extent of country, this quorum is thought sufficiently large. If business of great importance or expectation is to be done, a small quorum will be likely to make a large Synod.

‡ The Presbyteries which have already reported their consent to this amendment need not report on it again, unless they choose. Some have reported their opinion that the words "standing rules," mean—*constitutional rules*, and that no alteration is necessary, not knowing that this is the very thing in dispute; that serious disputes, and serious evils have resulted from the ambiguity; and that the object of the amendment is to obtain language, the meaning of which cannot be disputed. These Presbyteries, as well as those which have not reported on the article, are requested to forward their decision.

§ This chapter takes for granted, that every congregation about to call a minister, has only *one* candidate in view. The six following amendments are intended to provide for a case that often happens, viz., a church about to call a pastor having *several* candidates in contemplation; or rather, they are intended to accommodate the constitution to both cases.

No. 11.—Sect. 4. After "the candidate," insert—who has a majority of votes.

No. 12.—Chap. XV. Sect. 2. Strike out "together with a written citation to him," and insert—if the parties be not prepared to have the matter issued at that Presbytery, a written citation shall be given to the minister.*

No. 13.—Chap. 1. Sect. 12. Strike out "and" in the last sentence, and add to the section—and it shall be considered as regular for any member or members, who may have dissented from the judgment of the inferior judicatory, to state and support their reasons on the appeal.†

Chap. II. Sect. 8. Strike out "three times," and insert—twice.

Lastly. Let the Assembly appoint a suitable person to prepare an index, to be added to the work.

Your committee beg leave to solicit the early attention of the Assembly to this subject.

No amendment can be made in our standards, till a majority of the Presbyteries shall have expressed their approbation thereof in writing. A *single amendment* has been heretofore attempted, and the exertions of five years have left the question undecided. More efficacious measures must be taken, or the contemplated edition will be deferred beyond the period which the wishes of the Assembly, and the wants of the churches require. If therefore the amendments proposed, or any of them, shall be sanctioned by the Assembly, your committee would submit the following resolutions:

1. That the amendments be numbered in a continued series, that so a reference may conveniently be made to them by the Presbyteries.

2. That the introductory part of this report, with the amendments, be printed with a few explanatory notes, during the present sessions; and that one copy, inclosed in a circular letter, signed by the Moderator, be addressed and sent to each Presbytery.

3. That the Presbyteries be required to decide on the amendments as soon as may be practicable; draw up their decision in writing, and immediately send it by mail or otherwise, to the Rev. Philip Milledoler, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, residing in the city of Philadelphia, so that the same may be received at farthest by next Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the same committee take measures for printing a sufficient number of copies of the foregoing report, from the beginning of it to the end of the amendments, inclusive; that the same may be forwarded to the Presbyteries for their consideration.

*Resolved*, also, That the same committee prepare a draught of the circular letter and notes, contemplated in the said report, and lay the same before this Assembly on Monday next.

The Assembly *Resolved*, To appoint a committee, consisting of a member from each Presbytery, to designate the most proper places for the employment of the missionaries of the ensuing year, and to endeavour to find and recommend a sufficient number of suitable characters to be employed as missionaries.

Accordingly Doctors Hall, Cooper, Burnet, and Tennent, Messrs. Chapman, Coe, Sweetman, Freeman, Amzi Armstrong, Woolworth, Clark, John

---

*Notes adopted by a subsequent resolution of the Assembly.*

* This amendment is intended to provide, that *consent of parties* shall shorten the constitutional process, for translating a minister.

† Those who gave the judgment in the inferior judicatory, become parties against the appellant in the superior court; and sometimes overwhelm him by weight of numbers and talents. This amendment is intended to provide a counterpoise, to enable the minority, who may have dissented from the judgment, to take part with the appellant in the superior judicatory. This we believe they are not generally permitted to do.

E. Latta, Williamson, Coulter, Inglis, Steele, James Hughes, Thomas E. Hughes, Le Grand Brown, and Wilson, were appointed a committee for the purpose aforesaid.

The Assembly, agreeably to the order of the day, proceeded to consider the reference from the Synod of Pittsburgh relating to a certain marriage.

It appeared that a Mr. James Gaston had been censured as being guilty of incest, for having married a woman, who was sister's daughter to his former wife; and had brought the cause by appeal to the Synod of Pittsburgh. The Synod, conceiving that the cause involved a high question of discipline, chose to refer it to the General Assembly for their decision.

The Assembly having discussed the subject at some length, a motion was made and seconded, that the decision given by the General Assembly in the year 1802 in a case precisely similar, be adopted as the decision on the present occasion.

After some consideration, a motion was made and carried, to postpone the motion before the house, in order to introduce the following as a substitute, viz:

The Assembly having given repeated decisions on similar cases, cannot advise to annul such marriages, or pronounce them to such a degree unlawful, as that the parties, if otherwise worthy, should be debarred from the privileges of the church. But as great diversity of opinion seems to exist on such questions in different parts of the church, so that no absolute rule can be enjoined with regard to them that shall be universally binding, and consistent with the peace of the church, and as the cases in question are esteemed to be doubtful, the Assembly is constrained to leave it to the discretion of the inferior judicatories under their care, to act according to their own best lights, and the circumstances in which they find themselves placed.

A question was then taken to agree to the substitute and determined in the affirmative.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 28th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly were informed that Mr. Agnew had gone home on Saturday last, on account of bodily indisposition.

The committee to whom were referred the reports of the several Synods and the duplicate reports of the Presbyteries, reported, stating that reports were exhibited to them from the Synod of New York and New Jersey, the Synod of Philadelphia, the Synod of Pittsburgh, the Synod of Virginia, and the Synod of the Carolinas. That the reports appeared to be generally regular; and the committee gave a detailed account of the several sums of money contributed by the different churches for the contingent fund of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the report be adopted, and that the committee appointed for selecting and printing the extracts, add to the same a list of the churches which have contributed to the said fund, for and during one year next preceding this date, with the specific sums paid by each; and that in ascertaining these sums they avail themselves as well of the foregoing report, as of the Treasurer's books.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Presbyteries, to continue their exertions to procure and forward annual collections from the churches under their care; that those who have been in any measure deficient pay a special attention to this subject. If each congregation shall punctually make one annual collection, "as the Lord hath prospered them," and seasonably forward it to the Treasurer; and if this uniformity shall have grown into habit, the labour of Assemblies and Presbyteries will be diminished; the complaints of the forward against the deficient churches will cease, and seed will be sown which will bring forth fruit unto eternal life. On the fund which is supplied by these free-will offerings, depend the missionary efforts of the General Assembly. Never was there a time when the calls for missionary labours were so loud and so frequent; and never was there a time when these labours of love for the souls of men promised such an ample return."

Mr. Alexander Nelson, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Lexington, appeared in the house as a commissioner from the said Presbytery. His commission having being read, and approved at the opening of the sessions this morning, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

The committee appointed to designate the missionaries for the ensuing year, and the missionary ground, reported.

*Resolved*, That the report be referred to the Committee of Missions.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries and individuals who have received, or may hereafter receive religious books for distribution, report to the Committee of Missions from year to year, stating in what manner the books have been disposed of, the effects produced, and the books, if any, remaining on hand.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of the General Assembly to those persons who have presented to them certain religious books for gratuitous distribution.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be authorized and directed to distribute, at their discretion, the books received as aforesaid, together with such part of the books received on account of the debt of Cornelius Davies, as are of a religious nature, and suitable for distribution; and that they employ some person to sell the residue of said books, or exchange them for religious books proper for distribution.

The Committee of Missions having exhibited an account liquidated by them of certain sums of money due to the missionaries of last year, and others,

*Resolved*, That the said account be referred to the Trustees of the General Assembly, and that the Trustees be authorized and directed to grant warrants to the proper persons for the payment of the sums of money which appear to be due to them respectively.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly liquidate the account which may be exhibited to them by Jane Aitken, for printing a circular letter, &c., together with all other accounts for which appropriations have, or shall be made, by this or any former Assembly; and grant warrants for the payment of the sums which shall appear to be due.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Coe, and Mr. Griffin, be a committee to confer with the Committee of Missions, respecting the expediency or inexpediency of continuing a stated missionary at Geneva, and report to the Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas reported. The report being considered, the records were approved (a few inaccuracies excepted) to the close of the sessions of the Synod in the year 1803.

The last Assembly having directed the several Presbyteries to report to this Assembly their opinion, respecting the expediency of affording pecuniary aid to certain distant Presbyteries, in sending commissioners to the General Assembly, the Presbyteries represented in this Assembly were called upon to report on the premises.

The members of the Assembly, in behalf of their respective Presbyteries, delivered either written or verbal reports, and generally stated their opinion, that the object appeared reasonable, but that they could not devise any means for accomplishing it.

*Resolved*, That the reports, with the subject generally, be referred to the Rev. Messrs. Linn, McCue, Inglis, Messrs. Bayard, Rutgers, McLene, and William Brown, to consider and report thereon to this Assembly.

The committee appointed to draw up and present to this house a summary of the information received in this Assembly, during the free conversation on the general state of religion, exhibited their report.

The report being read and amended, was adopted as follows:

"Although every sincere Christian must lament that inattention to the ordinances of religion, and the small impression which its sacred truths make on the hearts of men, which are visible in many and extensive portions of our country; yet the Assembly have heard, with the highest satisfaction, of the prevalence and increasing influence of vital and practical godliness, throughout the greater part of the Presbyteries which compose our body. Within those wide districts, towards the south and west, from which the last Assembly heard, with so much pleasure, the glad tidings of the great salvation manifested there, the power of religion appears still to prevail, with little abatement. And although through the subtlety of the adversary of souls, and the influence of human frailty, some errors, extravagances, and instances of reproachful behaviour have taken place, which the Assembly do sincerely regret, and most unequivocally disapprove and condemn; yet are they happy to learn, and it is a sacred duty which they owe to the churches, to announce, that notwithstanding the malignity with which the enemies of religion have studied to misrepresent, and rejoiced to exaggerate these undesirable events, they are chiefly confined to one district of no great extent; and they are certainly very rare, considering the immense region through which this work has prevailed, and the vast variety of characters who have been its subjects.

The Assembly, moreover, have the unspeakable satisfaction to announce, that the extraordinary influences of the Divine Spirit have, since the last year, been spread over new and very extensive countries still farther to the south and west. To the north-west and north, from the Ohio river to the lakes, a vast region which a few years ago was an uninhabited wilderness, new churches are forming with astonishing rapidity, and the Spirit of God seems to be remarkably poured out, and to accompany the word and ordinances of the gospel with the most solemn and affecting impressions.

The same spirit appears to prevail through a large portion of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and the Synod of Albany. Its effects, though more silent, seem to be not less deep and consoling to the friends of true religion. Sinners are convinced, and sincere believers comforted and established in the faith and hope of the gospel. Trophies are continually raised to the grace of the Redeemer, and numbers are almost daily added to the church of such, we trust, as shall be saved. In the churches in which these extraordinary influences of the Divine Spirit are not so conspicuous, the power and the salutary effects of the ordinances of the gospel, seem, notwithstanding, to be visibly progressing. That inattention to the things of religion; that neglect of its institutions; that tendency to infidelity, or to scepticism in principle, and to dissoluteness of manners, which, a few years since, the truly pious had so much reason to deplore, are in most places evidently arrested, and the tide of public sentiment happily begins to flow in a contrary direction. Places of divine worship are in general more frequented; the institutions of religion are held in higher honour, and attended with greater solemnity and apparent devotion. The like agreeable tidings have been received from our associated brethren of the eastern churches, who are dwelling together in peace, and in the unity and faith of the blessed gospel.

The Assembly have likewise heard with, uncommon satisfaction, of the increasing number of societies for the purposes of prayer, and for the promotion of piety and good morals. It is the ordinary course of divine providence, that when God designs to pour out his Spirit in a remarkable manner on his churches, and to increase and extend the influence of true religion, he first awakens among his own people a spirit of prayer, and of fervent supplication at the throne of grace for this blessing. And the Assembly do earnestly recommend it to all who love the appearing of the great God, even our Saviour Jesus Christ, to meet often together; to stir one another up to love and good works, and to wrestle in prayer with God, like the saints of old, for the prosperity of Zion, till the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.

It is, moreover, no small ground of consolation to observe the pious disposition manifested, and the increasing efforts which are made, more effectually to extend the knowledge of the way of salvation to the unhappy and enslaved blacks in our country, and to send the inestimable blessings of the gospel, along with the improvements of civilization, to the heathen and savage tribes in our vicinity; to save these wretched people from utter extermination, and to raise up from the remnants of so many destructive wars the seeds of future and great nations, who shall enlarge the kingdom of the Redeemer. The reports of the Assembly's missionaries in the Cherokee and Catawba nations, have rendered the prospects of introducing among them letters and civilization, the arts of peace, and the precious lights of the gospel, more promising than at any period they have ever been.

Finally, the Assembly rejoicing themselves in the grace of the great Head of the Church, have again the happiness to offer to the churches under their care, increasing cause of thanksgiving and praise to the God of all mercy and truth. And they intreat the co-operation of their prayers and their charity, for the promotion of the Redeemer's glory, and the salvation of precious and immortal souls. And now to God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who hath given us this reason to rejoice, be glory and honour, world without end! Amen."

A letter from several members of the First Presbyterian church, of the town of Ovid, in the state of New York, complaining of the conduct of the Presbytery of Oneida, in erecting another congregation in their neighbourhood; also of Mr. Chapman for preaching in said congregation, &c., was received and read.

The Assembly having considered the same,

*Resolved*, That as the complainants have not stated their grievances to the Presbytery, nor applied to it for redress, the petition be returned to them, and that they be directed to proceed in this case as the Constitution prescribes.

*Resolved*, That the Permanent Clerk transmit to the complainants an attested copy of the above record.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The committee to whom was referred the communication from the Synod of Kentucky, reported.

The report having been read and amended, was adopted as follows:

"Your committee beg leave to submit the draught of a letter to be addressed to the Moderator of the aforesaid Synod, viz:

*To the Moderator of the Synod of Kentucky.*

Sir—The Assembly have received your request by your committee of the 24th of April, on the subject of granting your Synod liberty to publish one thousand copies of the Confession of Faith, for the use of your State. They have duly weighed the reasons in support of the request, and attended to the peculiar circumstances of the churches in your parts, at this time; and have resolved as a substitute for your request, to forward to your Synod three hundred and fifty copies of the Confession, edited by Robert Aitken, to be disposed of by them at such price as they shall judge proper, and account to the Assembly for the amount. The request in its fullest latitude would have been granted, were it not that several amendments to the Constitution, in addition to one proposed some years ago, have been adopted and recommended by this Assembly.

This apology we hope will be satisfactory, especially when your Synod is informed, that a more perfect edition of the book may be expected in the course of one or two years at farthest. With ardent wishes for the peace and prosperity of the churches under your care, we bid you farewell."

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing letter, signed by the Moderator, be addressed and transmitted to the Moderator of the Synod of Kentucky.

The committee appointed to the service, reported the draught of a pastoral letter to the churches under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly.

The report being read, the farther consideration thereof was postponed till to-morrow.

Dr. Hall obtained leave of absence, after this day, during the remainder of the sessions.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of the division in the Synod of Kentucky, reported.

The report being read and considered, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That this subject be recommitted, and that the Rev. Messrs. Brown, Le Grand, and Wilson, be added to the committee.

The committee appointed to the service, reported the draught of a circular letter to the Presbyteries, and certain notes explanatory of the amendments to the Constitution, adopted on Saturday last.

The Assembly, having read and considered the same,

*Resolved*, That the notes be printed beneath the amendments to which they respectively belong; and that copies of the circular letter be signed by the Moderator, and transmitted agreeably to a former resolution of this house.

The letter adopted by the Assembly is as follows:

*To the Presbytery of* . . . . . . .

Brethren—The constant and extensive demand for copies of the Constitution of our church, has rendered a new impression of it indispensable. Anxious to render the work as unexceptionable as possible, the General Assembly of last year appointed a committee carefully to revise the whole, and to submit the result to us at our present sessions. This has accordingly been done, and the report of the committee, after being carefully considered and amended, is herewith transmitted to you for a final adoption or rejection, either in whole or in part, of the alterations suggested. Short notes are added to the proposed amendments, that you may see at once what were the leading considerations that have induced the Assembly to think that they may advantageously be made, and that less time might be necessary in making up your own minds on each particular article. Having thus done everything in our power to abridge the labour of the Presbyteries, and taken effectual measures, we trust, for a seasonable communication to you of this important concern, the Assembly expect that no Presbytery under their care will fail to make a decision on the subjects specified within the year; nor to transmit that decision, when made, to the Stated Clerk (the Rev. Philip Milledoler, of Philadelphia,) before the meeting of the next Assembly. The necessity for despatch in this business is obvious. The churches must remain unsupplied with copies of our standards till the constitutional number of the Presbyteries have made their report on the premises; or, if supplied, they must receive a book that will probably soon be found unsatisfactory, on account of the variations from its contents which are now proposed to be made.

Praying for the divine blessing on all your ministrations and services for the promotion of the cause of our common Lord, we bid you farewell.

Signed by order of the General Assembly,

. . . . . . . . ., *Moderator*.

*Philadelphia, May 29th*, 1804.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 29th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The committee appointed to confer with the Committee of Missions respecting the expediency of continuing a stated missionary at Geneva, reported, that they have executed the duty assigned to them, and that the result will appear by a report to be made to the Assembly this day by the Committee of Missions.

The committee appointed to devise and recommend a plan for affording pecuniary aid to the commissioners from distant Presbyteries attending the General Assembly, reported. The report being read and considered, was adopted and is as follows:

"Your committee having taken the subject into consideration, were of opinion, that the contemplated aid must, for the present, be derived from the voluntary contributions to be made by the more wealthy citizens, resident in other districts, and therefore submit the following resolution, viz:

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Presbyteries belonging to the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and to the Synod of Philadelphia, earnestly to advise the churches under their care, to make an annual collection, to be specially appropriated to aid in the payment of the expenses of the commissioners from the more distant parts of the country, to enable them to attend the General Assembly; and that the money, when collected, be put into the hands of the Treasurer of the Corporation, and paid to the persons who may attend as commissioners, under the direction of the General Assembly."

The committee appointed by last Assembly to dispose of the interest of certain moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, for the education of poor and pious youth, did not report.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. Hunter and Kollock be a committee to appropriate the whole interest accrued on this fund, which has not been heretofore appropriated, and to report to next Assembly.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of the division in the Synod of Kentucky, reported. The report was read, amended, and adopted as follows:

"Your committee having attended carefully to the pamphlets and letter on that subject, are of opinion the business comes before the Assembly in so informal a manner, that no regular judicial process can issue thereon in the present Assembly; and that the most eligible measures the Assembly can take in the case, will be to appoint a committee of three members to meet with the Synod, or a committee of the Synod of Kentucky, and endeavour to heal the disorders which appear from the above pamphlets and letter to have taken place in the bounds of Synod.

"Your committee beg leave farther to report, that in their opinion, the appointment of a committee of this Assembly, and the adoption of the pastoral letter read last evening, will supersede the necessity of a letter addressed particularly to Messrs. Blythe, Lyle, and Stuart."

The Committee of Missions appeared before the Assembly, and made a farther report on the missionary business, and also a very interesting detail of information received by the committee, respecting the state of religion in several places beyond the limits of the General Assembly. The report was read and laid on the table.

Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Rutgers obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Pursuant to the report of the committee on the division in Kentucky, adopted in the forenoon, the Assembly proceeded to elect by ballot, three persons as a committee, to meet with the Synod of Kentucky at its next meeting, and for three other persons as substitutes, to serve in case of the necessary absence of the principals, or either of them. Accordingly Dr. Hall, Dr. Green, and Mr. Marques, were chosen to be a committee for the purpose aforesaid; and Mr. Alexander, Mr. Le Grand, and Mr. Baxter, were elected as substitutes, the substitutes severally to succeed to the places of the respective principals, in the order in which they stand above, yet so as that any one of the three members last mentioned, who may be present at the meeting of the Synod, shall be competent to serve in the place of any one of the principals who may be absent, and his place not filled.

*Resolved*, That the several ministers chosen as aforesaid, perform the duty of missionaries, so far as may consist with their other duties; and that they receive the pay of missionaries, during the terms they shall be necessarily absent from their respective homes, on the business assigned them.

*Resolved*, That the Permanent Clerk give seasonable notice of the appointment of the above committee, to the Synod of Kentucky, and inform the several persons chosen of their election, and the duty expected of them by the Assembly

The Assembly took into consideration the report of the Committee of Missions presented in the forenoon, and after some deliberation,

*Resolved*, 1. That the Rev. Jedediah Chapman be appointed a stated missionary for the current year, to spend six months in missionary labours, and to receive the like compensation as heretofore.

2. That the Rev. John Close be appointed a missionary for three months, in the counties of Saratoga and Washington, in the state of New York, in the settlements about the head of Hudson's River, Lake George, and the head of Lake Champlain.

3. That the Rev. John Lindley be appointed a missionary for three months, in the county of Seneca, in the state of New York; thence across the Lake into Cayuga into Onondaga counties; thence to Seneca River, Junius, and through the counties of Ontario and Steuben, to the Painted Post, and thence homeward.

4. That the Rev. Joseph Sweetman be appointed a missionary to spend two months on the west side of Lake Champlain, commencing his missionary tour at Ticonderoga, and proceeding down the Lake to the Canada line.

5. That Dr. Thomas Read be appointed a missionary for two months; and the Rev. John E. Latta for one month, on the peninsula between the Delaware bay, the ocean, and the Chesapeake bay.

6. That Dr. Robert Cooper be a missionary for two months, to proceed to Great Island, near Pine Creek in Pennsylvania, and thence to the Painted Post, in the state of New York.

7. That the Rev. Matthew La Rue Perine be appointed a missionary for three months, to visit the congregation of Nine Partners, proceed thence to the Great Bend of the Susquehanna, Owego, the head of the Lakes, Geneva, Ulysses, and the Church of Williamstown, and Genessee.

8. That the Rev. Amzi Armstrong be appointed a missionary for two months, in the vacant parts of Sussex county, New Jersey.

9. That the Rev. Gideon Blackburn be appointed a missionary for two months, to the Cherokee Indians.

10. That the Rev. Dr. James Hall be appointed a missionary for six months, three of which to be spent in the Presbytery of Washington, (Kentucky,) under the direction of that Presbytery, or their standing committee, and the other three months as the Committee of Missions shall direct.

11. That Mr. John Chavis be appointed a missionary for three months, to be spent in the southern parts of Virginia, and in North Carolina.

12. That two hundred dollars be appropriated to the school-master, employed by Mr. Blackburn in teaching the Indian youth, for his second year's services.

13. That the missionaries be left at discretion, as to the season for performing their respective services.

Lastly. That the missionaries for the ensuing year receive thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month, for their services; they accounting for the moneys they shall respectively receive in the course of their missions, and that they severally receive one month's pay in advance, if demanded.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Committee of Missions, to employ the Rev. James Robinson, as a missionary for two months of the ensuing year, in the counties of Amherst and Montgomery, in the state of Virginia, provided it shall be found, in the sequel, that the funds will admit of it.

The Assembly deeming it a matter of high importance, that the pulpits of the missionaries who have pastoral charges, be fully supplied during the period of their absence respectively, proceeded to devise means for the purpose; and resolved to appoint committees for making the proper appointments of supplies, and that the committees be requested to meet seasonably, and use their best endeavours to provide the contemplated supplies. Accordingly it was

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. James Richards and Aaron Condict, be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpits of Mr. Amzi Armstrong and Mr. Perine. That the Rev. Messrs. Simon Hossack and Eliphalet Nott, be a committee to appoint supplies for Mr. Sweetman's pulpit. That the Rev. Messrs. William Arthur and Nathan Grier, be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpits of Dr. Read and Mr. Latta. That the Rev. Messrs. Janeway and Potts, be a committee to appoint supplies for Dr. Green's pulpit. That the Rev. Messrs. Hill and Hoge, be a committee to appoint supplies for Mr. Le Grand's pulpit. That the Rev. Messrs. James McCrea and Samuel Caldwell, be a committee to appoint supplies for Dr. Hall's pulpit. That the Rev. Messrs. John McMillan and Joseph Patterson, be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Marques.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the draught of a pastoral letter laid before the house yesterday. Having read and considered the same by paragraphs, and made several amendments, they adopted it as follows:

"*Christian Brethren*—United to you in the bonds of love, and of Christ, we feel all the constraint of the ties which bind us to you, as one body in our common Lord. Assembled by the good providence of God, in the supreme judicatory of the church, we feel the duty imposed upon us, as the guardians of the peace, order, and purity of the body of Christ, of addressing you on the great subject of our common salvation.

Dear brethren, we still have cause of mutual congratulations and joy on account of the increasing prosperity of Zion in these lands, which not long since were so dry and barren. They are in many places watered with the abundant dews of Heaven; and righteousness has run down the streets of our Jerusalem like a mighty stream. God has appeared to revive his cause in the midst of the years of great declension, and in the midst of deserved wrath he has remembered mercy. In many parts of our church God has poured out a spirit of prayer upon his people, and has been graciously pleased to answer their prayers, by a copious effusion of his blessed Spirit. The boldness of infidelity, and the profligacy of impiety have been greatly repressed; and though here and there we still behold its violent struggles exerted against the Saviour, they appear to be only the convulsive struggles of despair. The truths of revelation are gradually acquiring a decided ascendency in all parts of our land, and in many they are daily coming home to the hearts of men, with uncommon evidence and power.

For more particular information on these subjects, we refer you, brethren, to that summary of the state of religion within the bounds of the General Assembly, which accompanies this letter. You will there perceive, however, that amidst so many subjects of gratitude and praise to Almighty God, for the riches of his grace, displayed in the revivals of the spirit of religion, in various portions of our church, we have also some causes of deep affliction and regret, mingled with them. Human frailty is apt to mar and disfigure, in some degree, whatever it touches; and the great adversary of souls and of Christ, taking advantage of the passions of convinced sinners, of the hypocrisy of deceivers, and of the imperfections even of the best of men, sets himself, often too effectually, to tarnish the beauty and glory of the work of God.

An unhappy separation of five, who had formerly appeared to be zealous and successful ministers of Jesus Christ, in union with the Synod of Kentucky, has given no small occasion of grief to the churches. Too great an ardour of spirit for what they conceived to be the truth, and perhaps, too great heat concerning the meaning and importance of words, have created a division which Christian charity should exert all its powers to heal. We beseech you brethren, yet, receive one another in the spirit of love and forbearance. Remember how divisions and contests between men, engaged in the same glorious cause, will wound the hearts of sincere Christians, and distract the minds of the weak; remember how apt they are to embitter the meek spirit of the gospel, and to quench the zeal of genuine piety, in the unholy passions of strife and contention; remember, we entreat you for the love of Christ, how the adversary will blaspheme and rejoice, and the Redeemer be wounded in the house of his friends. Brethren, re-unite your hearts and your labours in this blessed work, and let not its progress be arrested, or its glory impaired by the baneful influence of your divisions. Meet together for the purposes of conciliation, using the counsels and aid of the committee, which the General Assembly has thought proper to send to you, to endeavour to repair so undesirable and dangerous a breach in the walls of our Zion. If you love the Lord, if you love and pray for the peace of Jerusalem, will you not sacrifice much to these objects so dear to every real Christian?

With not less regret have we heard of certain extravagances in the exercises and agitations of many persons, who in this work, otherwise so desirable, have once been the subjects of strong religious impressions. That the sudden blaze of divine truth upon a mind hitherto covered with thick darkness; that a deep conviction of guilt and sense of the wrath of God against an offending worm of the dust, especially when these apprehensions are raised to the highest pitch by the power of sympathy, and the panic excited by the emotions of a vast assembly, should often produce strong bodily affections, is not surprising to those who are acquainted with the human economy. That the transports of a mind suddenly brought out of darkness into God's marvellous light, suddenly raised from the borders of despair to the ecstasies of religious hope and joy, should be accompanied with a similar influence on the nervous system, is not incredible.

The preceding are not pretended to be assigned as the certain or the sole reasons of many extraordinary appearances in some of our southern churches. It is sufficient to answer the views of the Assembly, to show that causes are adequate to the production of the highest effects of this kind, in order to preserve them from the unjust imputation of a fanatical, or demoniacal influence. But when bodily agitations, which in most instances disturb the serious, sober, and rational exercises of the mind, instead of being soothed and restrained within the bounds of decency, are encouraged and excited by those who lead the worship and some who join in it, they very easily run into excesses highly reproachful to religion. When they go into antic gestures, ridiculous contortions, to movements of apparent levity, and contrary to propriety and religious order, and which resemble the effects of delirium, or of a spirit very different from the spirit of the gospel; these are the evidences of a wild enthusiasm, whose extravagances are infinitely various and unaccountable. When each person has a psalm, a prayer, a triumphant exultation, in the public worship of God, is not this the very evil which once took place in the Corinthian church, which the apostle severely reproves, saying, 'God is not a God of confusion, but of order?' In genuine and rational religion, however high and fervent may be its affections, 'the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.' And if so, surely this power is still more necessary for the sake of order, in every ordinary Christian.

We strongly bear our testimony against those persons who pretend to immediate impulses and revelations from heaven; those divine communications which were given only to the prophets and apostles, who were appointed by God to reveal to mankind the way of eternal life. When men presume that the Holy Spirit, contrary to the established order of providence, interferes by particular impulse to direct them in all the common affairs of life; when they deem themselves to be impelled by him to particular acts or particular religious exercises, contrary to the established order of the gospel, and the obvious duties of the moment; when finally they pretend to miraculous powers or prophetic influences, and the foretelling of future events, all these are evidences of a wild enthusiastic spirit, and tend eventually to destroy the authority of the word of God, as the sole rule of faith and practice. Ecclesiastical history furnishes us with many examples of such enthusiastic impulses, following great revivals of religion, which have ever been strongly and uniformly condemned by the voice of the whole church, as in the case of the French prophets, the fanatics of Munster, and we may add the fanatical Jews who sprung up in such numbers, and persevered with such obstinacy, even while the disasters of their city and their temple were daily refuting their predictions. And it will be a subject of sincere lamentation to us, if any ministers in our communion should unhappily be found to encourage such great evils. But we hope better things of you, though we thus speak.

Dear brethren, and fellow labourers in the gospel of our common Lord, study to prevent excesses so dishonourable, and contrary to the beautiful order of the church of Christ, or zealously endeavour to repress them wherever they begin to appear. In a great and general inflammation of the human mind, we ought not to be astonished if these fervours, operating sometimes on weakness, sometimes on an enthusiastic temperament, should impel a few men to very considerable errors and excesses. Such have happened in every revival of religion, and in even every great political commotion; and such especially happened in various instances in the memorable and glorious Reformation of the Christian church, from the spiritual thraldom and the errors of popery. By common concert and counsel endeavour to restrain every irregularity in the worship of God at its very commencement. Disorders of an enthusiastic spirit may often be checked in the beginning with facility, which when suffered to progress, come at length to overleap all the barriers of authority and burst through all the bounds of order and of decency. Solemnly bear in mind, brethren, how much the great Head of the church has committed his glory, and the glory of his holy cause in the world, to your activity and your faithfulness, to your prudence as well as your zeal.

And now, fellow Christians, of every order and condition in life, we entreat you earnestly to co-operate with the public servants of Christ, in promoting the glory and extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. Faithfully improve the precious season of divine grace, which God is now bestowing on his church.

By your prayers draw down the blessings of heaven on your families, on the church, on your country, on the world. God will appear for his people with a great salvation; but for all these things will he be 'inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them.' Let your prayers for the prosperity of Zion, continually ascend in secret to the throne of grace. Promote and encourage assemblies for social prayer. For Jerusalem's sake rest not, and for Zion's sake hold not your peace. Whenever God has appeared in any signal display of his mercy to the church, he has usually, in the first place, poured out 'on the house of David, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a spirit of grace and supplication.' That we may continue to wait at his footstool, he condescends to bestow his special and extraordinary grace in answer to the prayers which he himself has inspired.

Parents, train up your children 'in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.' Your houses should be temples of the living God, in which should ascend to his mercy-seat the continual incense of your daily sacrifices. Pious parents can most effectually preach to the hearts of their children by their affectionate precepts, and their holy example. Your instructions will best prepare them to receive benefit from the public ordinances of religion. And oh! can you see these dearest portions of yourselves, ready to perish without earnestly reaching forth a hand to 'pluck them as brands from the burning?'

'Children, obey your parents in the Lord.' You are the future hope of the church and of the world. Your early piety will be your glory and your happiness. And remember, that shortly the glory of your Creator and Redeemer in the world, will rest with you.

Beloved brethren! Christians of every class, 'be ye steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.' 'Adorn the doctrine of God your Saviour,' by the purity, the simplicity, and sanctity of your lives, that the enemies of the cross may have no occasion to blaspheme the Master, by whose name you are called. Let God witness the humility of your spirit; the sincerity and fervour of your devotion. Let the world witness your ministerial charity and love, that others 'seeing your good works may glorify your Father in heaven.' We pray, dear brethren, that God may ever have you in his holy keeping. And now 'to him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the throne of his glory, with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory, majesty, dominion, and power, both now and ever. Amen."

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Committee of Missions to publish by subscription a periodical Magazine sacred to religion and morals, and pay the profits into the funds of the Assembly, to be applied to missionary purposes.

Messrs. Jennings, Carl, and Le Grand, obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

The Rev. John Linn, by permission of the Assembly, resigned his seat in favour of the Rev. Robert Cathcart, the alternate in his commission named, who being present took his seat as a member.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 30th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Committee of Missions informed, that agreeably to the order of last Assembly, they have written to the society in Scotland, which has the care of certain funds appropriated to an Indian mission, in order to obtain information respecting said funds, and requesting to obtain the disposition thereof, if agreeable to the views of the said Society. They farther stated that they have not yet received an answer to their letter.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be authorized and requested to liquidate the accounts of the Permanent Clerk, and of the Rev. John E. Latta, Temporary Clerk of the Assembly; to allow them the like compensation per diem, as was paid to these officers of the house the two preceding years; and to grant warrants to them respectively, for the sums which shall appear to be due.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Milledoler, Mr. Janeway, and Mr. Hazard, be a committee to endeavour to obtain a more convenient and proper place in this city, for holding the sessions of the General Assembly the ensuing year, and that they report to next Assembly.

A copy of a record of the Presbytery of Baltimore, was exhibited and read, stating that in the opinion of that Presbytery, it would conduce to the interest of religion, if the General Assembly would occasionally meet within the limits of that Presbytery, and requesting that the next Assembly may be appointed to meet in Alexandria, where, as the Presbytery inform, sufficient accommodations will be provided.

The Assembly having taken the above into consideration,

*Resolved*, That as a co-operation by and between the General Assembly, the Committee of Missions, and the incorporated Trustees of the Assembly, appears to be conducive to the interests of the church, and as the members of the Committee of Missions, and those of the Board of Trustees, generally reside in Philadelphia, and can only hold their sessions there, the Assembly cannot at this time comply with the request.

The Assembly being informed that the committee appointed for making extracts, &c., cannot conveniently attend to that business,

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. Janeway, and Potts, aided by the Permanent Clerk, be a committee to select such parts of the records of this Assembly as they shall judge proper to be published for the information of the people and judicatories of the church; that the said clerk transcribe the same, and superintend the printing and distribution of one thousand five hundred copies; allowing to each Presbytery a part, proportioned to the number of its members and churches.

*Resolved*, That the said committee subjoin to the extracts some account of the glorious prospects of usefulness, opened to the Assembly by the reports of their missionaries among the Indians; affording ample encouragement to perseverance in a work often pronounced hopeless.

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Columbia be directed to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Coe, during the time he shall be absent in the discharge of his duty as a delegate from this Assembly to the Convention of the Congregational Ministers of the State of Vermont.

The Assembly read and revised their whole minutes from the beginning of the sessions, and made some verbal amendments.

The janitor, John Lauder, exhibited his account for services and sundry incidental expenses of the Assembly, amounting to thirty-eight dollars and eighty-eight cents and one-half.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly grant him a warrant for the payment of the same.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Whereupon, The Moderator dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution, and

Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1804.

### Synod of Albany.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oneida. No report. | | | | |
| Columbia, do. | | | | |
| Albany, do. | | | | |
| Synod of New York and New Jersey. | | | | |
| Hudson, | 8 | 2 | | 9 |
| New York, | 19 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| New Brunswick, | 14 | 5 | 1 | 11 |
| Long Island. No report. | | | | |
| Synod of Philadelphia. | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 15 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| New Castle, | 12 | 3 | 6 | 14 |
| Lewes, | 4 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Baltimore. No report. | | | | |
| Carlisle, | 16 | 3 | 1 | 11 |
| Huntingdon, | 12 | 5 | 1 | 15 |
| Synod of Pittsburgh. | | | | |
| Redstone, | 10 | 1 | 3 | 17 |
| Ohio, | 17 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Erie, | 12 | 1 | 1 | 20 |
| Synod of Virginia. | | | | |
| Hanover, | 11 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| Lexington, | 8 | 2 | 1 | 14 |
| Winchester, | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | |

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers settled.* | *Without charge.* | *Licentiates.* | *Vacant churches.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SYNOD OF THE CAROLINAS. | | | | |
| Orange, | 10 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| South Carolina, (1st,) | 6 | 5 | 4 | 24 |
| Concord, | 10 | 2 | 1 | 19 |
| Hopewell. No report. | | | | |
| Union, do. | | | | |
| South Carolina, (2d,) do. | | | | |
| Greenville, do. | | | | |
| Total, | 190 | 40 | 33 | 204 |

Moneys collected during the year for the Contingent Fund.

| | |
|---|---|
| Synod of Albany, . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | $57.14 |
| Synod of New York and New Jersey. . . . . . | 411.23 |
| Synod of Philadelphia, . . . . . . . . . . . | 477.77 |
| Total | 946.14 |

## 1805.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 16*th*, 1805.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, at eleven o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. James F. Armstrong, the Moderator of last Assembly, with a sermon from John xiv. 16: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever."

After prayer the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Isaac Lewis.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Robert H. Chapman. Mr. Edward Savage, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. John B. Romeyn.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Andrew King, and Rev. Methuselah Baldwin.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, Rev. Dr. John McKnight, Rev. James Richards, and Rev. Edward D. Griffin. Messrs. Henry Rutgers, Matthew Freeman, John Mills, and William Parsell, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Zachariah Green. Mr. Jesse Leverich, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. James F. Armstrong, Rev. George S. Woodhull, Rev. David Comfort, and Rev. Nathaniel Harris. Messrs. John Bayard, Benjamin Haydon, and Henry Southard, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. John Davenport, Rev. Philip Milledoler, and Rev. William Latta. Messrs. John Lisle, A. Fullerton, and William Haslet, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Dr. Thomas Read, Rev. John E. Latta, and Rev. James Magraw. Dr. Robert Smith, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—The Rev. Stuart Williamson.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. John Glendy. Mr. Andrew Jamieson, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Robert Cathcart. Mr. William Brown, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. John Coulter. Mr. John Watson, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. William Swan, and Rev. James Guthrie.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. Thomas Marques, and Rev. Elisha McCurdy.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. James Satterfield, and Rev. Samuel Tait.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. Nash Le Grand.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. John H. Rice.

PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—The Rev. John Mines.

PRESBYTERY OF WASHINGTON—The Rev. Matthew G. Wallace.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST LEXINGTON—The Rev. James Blythe.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—The Rev. John Matthews.

PRESBYTERY OF HOPEWELL—The Rev. Robert M. Cunningham.

The Rev. Messrs. Elijah Waterman, and William Lyman, appeared in the house, and exhibited certificates of their appointment as delegates to this Assembly from the General Association of Connecticut. The certificates being read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly agreeably to their appointment.

The Rev. Mr. Richards was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Mr. Cathcart Temporary Clerk.

The Rev. Nash Le Grand, of the Presbytery of Winchester, appeared in the house, and a motion was made and seconded that he be admitted to a seat in this Assembly, although he has not a commission to produce. Mr. Le Grand informed that he has lately been employed on a mission in Kentucky; that he came from thence directly to this city without passing through the bounds of the Presbytery of Winchester, or attending the sessions. But as the Presbytery knew that Mr. Le Grand would be likely to attend this Assembly to report on the subject of his mission, he thinks they would appoint him as a commissioner.

Mr. Mines, from the Presbytery of Lexington, stated to the Assembly, that from a conversation he had with a member of the Winchester Presbytery since their last sessions, he was led to believe that Mr. Le Grand was commissioned to attend this Assembly as a member.

The question was then taken on the motion to admit Mr. Le Grand to a seat in this Assembly, and determined in the affirmative.

On motion, The Assembly proceeded to read the minutes of last Assembly, and having made progress, deferred farther attention to this subject till to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. McKnight, Messrs. Lewis, Chapman, Romeyn, Comfort, William Latta, Magraw, Williamson, Glendy, Coulter, Swan, McCurdy, Satterfield, Rice, Mines, Blythe, Matthews, Cunningham, and Lyman, with Messrs. Savage, Mills, Bayard, and Haslet, elders, be a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 17th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read

The Treasurer of the Corporation, agreeably to charter, exhibited a statement of his accounts, which was laid on the table.

The Assembly resumed and finished reading the minutes of last Assembly.

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly a copy of a record of the Presbytery of Oneida, earnestly praying this Assembly to divide that

Presbytery into two Presbyteries, to consist respectively of certain ministers and churches mentioned in said record.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the request of the Presbytery of Oneida be granted, and that Messrs. Romeyn, Chapman, Lewis, and Savage, be a committee to prescribe the limits of the Presbyteries to be formed, and direct the times and manner of their organization.

Mr. John Watson, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of Huntingdon, appeared in the Assembly as a commissioner from that Presbytery. Not being furnished with a commission, the Rev. Mr. Coulter, a member of this Assembly and of that Presbytery, assured the Assembly that Mr. Watson had been duly elected and commissioned by that Presbytery to attend this Assembly, and that the commission had been left behind by mistake.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That Mr. Watson be admitted to a seat in this Assembly, and he took his seat accordingly.

The delegates from last Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut reported, that they all attended the meeting of said body; that besides the friendly reception they met with, and the great pleasure they experienced in observing the agreeable and expeditious manner in which all the concerns of the church were transacted, they were particularly struck with the marked decorum and pointed order of that body. The delegates submitted to the Assembly the propriety of adopting the 17th Rule of the General Association as a rule of order for the regulation and government of the Assembly; which rule is as follows:

Whilst the Moderator is putting any question, or addressing the body, no one shall walk out of, or cross the house; nor in such case, or when a member is speaking, shall entertain private discourse, or read any printed book or paper, nor whilst a member is speaking, shall pass between him and the chair.

The delegates farther reported, that nothing of an extraordinary nature was transacted by the Association, but that the delegates were happy to find, and with pleasure report to the Assembly, that the missionary efforts of that body appear to be increasingly successful; that the next General Association is appointed to be held at the house of the Rev. Israel Brainerd, in the town of Guildford, on the third Tuesday of June, 1805.

The committee appointed by last Assembly to meet with the Synod of Kentucky, or with a committee of that Synod, and endeavour to heal the breach which had taken place in that part of the church, reported.

The report, and sundry documents relating thereto, were read, and Messrs. Marques, Blythe, and Le Grand, were heard in explanation.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That Dr. McKnight, Dr. Blythe, and Mr. Le Grand, be a committee to take this subject into consideration, to draught and lay before this Assembly a full statement of the proceedings of the Synod of Kentucky, and of the committee of Assembly that met with them, relating to the division in that Synod, in order that the same, if approved, may be recorded among the proceedings of this Assembly.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Milledoler, Mr. William Latta, and Mr. Fullerton, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey; that Dr. Rodgers, Mr. Romeyn, and Mr. Rutgers be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia; and that Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Woodhull, and Mr. Bayard, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

The records of the Synods of Albany, Kentucky, Virginia, and the Carolinas, were not exhibited for examination.

On motion, *Resolved*, That this Assembly will, on Monday morning next, enter into a free conversation on the general state of religion within their limits.

*Resolved*, That the members of this Assembly, with such persons as may choose to join with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer for the revival of religion, and other religious exercises; and that Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Milledoler, and Mr. Griffin, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate the persons who shall lead in the exercises.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Milledoler and Mr. Woodhull, aided by the Permanent Clerk, be a committee to select such parts of the records of this Assembly as they may judge proper to be published for the information of the people and judicatories of the church; that the said Clerk transcribe the same, and superintend the printing and distribution of 1500 copies, allotting a part to each Presbytery, proportioned to the number of its members and churches.

A letter was received from the Rev. Jonas Coe, purporting that sickness in his family prevented his attending the Convention of the Congregational Ministers of the State of Vermont, agreeably to the appointment of last Assembly.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Messrs. Andrew King and Methuselah Baldwin, appeared in the Assembly as commissioners from the Presbytery of Hudson. Their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly.

Mr. Le Grand, having received his commission from the Presbytery of Winchester to attend this Assembly as a member, exhibited the same, which was read and approved.

The Rev. Zachariah Green, of the Presbytery of Long Island, and Mr. Jesse Leverich, a ruling elder in that Presbytery, appeared in the house as commissioners from the Presbytery of Long Island. Their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly.

The Assembly called for the reports of the Synods, and duplicate reports of the Presbyteries.

Sundry reports were accordingly received, and agreeably to the arrangement made by last Assembly, were committed to Mr. King, Mr. Glendy, and Mr. Haslet, to consider and report thereon as soon as may be convenient.

Upon inquiry it appeared, that the Rev. Dr. Green and Mr. Hazard, who were appointed by last Assembly to write the history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, have been successfully employed in collecting materials for the work.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries and churches, which have not yet forwarded their local histories, be speedy in completing and sending them to the gentlemen appointed to this important service.

Mr. Lyman, in behalf of the General Association of Connecticut, expressed the great and increasing pleasure which the Association have experienced in their connection with the General Assembly; and stated, that, as a testimony of their respect for this body, the Association had forwarded by him, and begged this Assembly to accept, about eighty copies of extracts from the minutes of the last General Association. The Assembly thankfully received, and distributed among their members the said extracts; and requested Mr. Lyman to assure the General Association, that this Assembly with the utmost sensibility, reciprocate the sentiments and feelings expressed by Mr. Lyman in behalf of the Association.

The Assembly called on the Synods, which manage the missionary business in their separate capacity, to make report of their diligence and success in this work. Whereupon,

The Synod of Pittsburgh reported, that since the meeting of last Assembly, they sent two missionaries for two months to the settlements on the Allegheny river and Lake Erie; one for three months, to the settlements down the Ohio river; that a missionary whom they sent for one month to the Wyandot Indians was so well received, and made so good a report, that the Synod have appointed three ministers, to spend two months each, in succession, among them during the ensuing summer.

The Synod of Virginia reported, that they had under their direction for the year preceding October 1804, four missionaries, namely, Rev. Messrs. James Mitchell, and James Tompkins, Messrs. John Boggs, and John Chavis. Mr. Mitchell itinerated for two months, and Mr. Tompkins for six months, in the south-western parts of the State. The appearances of success in this district of country were very flattering, and the demand for preaching very great. Mr. Boggs itinerated for four months, principally in the northern neck of Virginia. In most places he was cordially received, and in some his preaching was attended with very hopeful appearances. Mr. Chavis, a missionary to the blacks, itinerated in several counties in the south parts of the State; but owing to some peculiar circumstances stated in his journal, his mission to them was not attended with any considerable success. The Rev. Mr. Huston spent one month in missionary labours, by order of Synod. Upon the whole, the Synod of Virginia observed, that the field for missionary labours in that State is very extensive, and the prospects of usefulness very encouraging.

The Synod of the Carolinas failed to make a written report on the missionary business; but the members of that Synod, who are members of this Assembly, stated from their own knowledge, that the Synod of the Carolinas have two missionaries at the Natchez, who had been appointed to spend twelve months each in missionary labours at that place; and that one other missionary has been appointed to spend some time in missionary service in certain destitute places in the lower parts of the states of North and South Carolina.

The Synod have appointed Mr. Boggs a missionary for two months of the current year; and Mr. Conrad Speece, of the Presbytery of Baltimore, who obtained leave to travel in Virginia for his health, as much time as he can employ. There is a missionary society within the bounds of the Presbytery of Lexington, which employed the Rev. Benjamin Erwin a missionary for five months of the last year. His exertions were attended with uncommon success.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 18th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Mr. Matthew G. Wallace, of the Presbytery of Washington, appeared in the Assembly as a commissioner from that Presbytery. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

Dr. Robert Smith, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly as a commissioner from that Presbytery. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

Agreeably to a nomination made last evening, the Assembly proceeded to elect three persons to serve as delegates to the next General Association of Connecticut, to meet at the house of the Rev. Israel Brainerd, in the town of Guildford, the third Tuesday of June next. A ballot being taken, the Rev. Dr. James Muir, the Rev. Messrs. Nash Le Grand, and Jacob J. Janeway, were duly chosen.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk furnish the delegates with an attested copy of the above record, which shall serve as their commission.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a person to serve as a delegate to the Convention of the Congregational Ministers of the State of Vermont, when the Rev. Gershom Williams, of the Presbytery of New York, was duly chosen.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk furnish Mr. Williams with an attested copy of the above record, which shall serve as his commission.

*Resolved*, That the several delegates chosen as aforesaid, receive each two dollars for every forty miles they shall necessarily travel, in going to and returning from the several places of their destination; and one dollar each, per day, during the time they shall attend their duty in the Association and Convention respectively.

The Assembly proceeded to appoint supplies for the pulpits of the said delegates during the periods of their expected absence; when the Rev. Messrs. Moses Hoge, and William Hill, were directed to supply Mr. Le Grand's pulpit one Sabbath each. Dr. Tennent, and Mr. William Latta, were appointed to supply Mr. Janeway's pulpit one Sabbath each. The Rev. Messrs. Steven B. Balch, Maffit, Wiley, and Brackenridge, were appointed to supply Dr. Muir's pulpit one Sabbath each; and the Rev. Mr. Griffin was appointed to supply Mr. Williams' pulpit one Sabbath.

The last Assembly having required the Presbyteries to make separate annual reports to the General Assembly, of the churches that make contributions for the contingent fund of the Assembly, with the specific sum paid by each for the year next preceding the report,

The Assembly called upon the Presbyteries to make their reports on this subject. Reports were received from the Presbyteries of Columbia, Albany, Hudson, New York, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Lewes, Carlisle, and from the second church in Baltimore.

*Resolved*, That the committee for printing add to the extracts a detailed account of the sums received as above, together with all sums received for the permanent fund which have not been published.

The committee appointed to prescribe the limits of the Presbyteries to be formed out of the existing Presbytery of Oneida, and to direct the times and manner of their organization, made their report. The report being read and considered, was adopted, and is as follows:

"Your committee having had the subject of their appointment under consideration, submit the following resolutions to be adopted by the Assembly, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That so much of the existing Presbytery of Oneida as lies on the west side of the western line of the counties of Chenango and Oneida, including the Rev. Messrs. Jedediah Chapman, John Lindsley, Samuel Leacock, and Jabez Chadwick, be constituted a Presbytery, by the name of the Presbytery of Geneva; that they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian church at Geneva, the third Tuesday of September next, and be opened with a sermon by Mr. Chapman, or, in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present, and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

2. *Resolved,* That so much of the existing Presbytery of Oneida as lies between the eastern line of the counties of Otsego and Herkimer, and the western line of the counties of Chenango and Oneida, containing the Rev. Messrs. Peter Fish, Samuel F. Snowden, Isaac Lewis, Joshua Knight, and James Carnahan, be constituted a Presbytery, by the name of the Presbytery of Oneida; that they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian church at Utica, on the first Tuesday of September next, and be opened with a sermon by Mr. Fish, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present, and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments."

The committee appointed yesterday to draught and lay before this Assembly a statement of the proceedings of the Synod of Kentucky, and of the committee of last Assembly that met with them, respecting the division of that Synod, exhibited the following report, viz:

"Your committee have had the subject of their appointment under consideration, and submit the following statement of facts, derived from authentic sources, viz: The Rev. Dr. Hall, the Rev. Messrs. Marques and Le Grand, being the full complement of the committee appointed for the purpose by last Assembly, met with the Synod of Kentucky the 16th day of October last; the members of the Synod were generally present, and all the dissenting brethren except one, who was said to be sick. They had various interviews with the protestors in private, but found every effort of friendly accommodation counteracted by marks of prejudice, obstinacy, and premeditated decision.

Agreeably to the suggestion of the General Assembly, a committee was appointed by the Synod, to confer with the committee of the Assembly.

In a conference between this joint committee and the dissenters, the following questions were proposed by the committee, to which the dissenters returned the annexed answers:

*Question* 1. What were your reasons for renouncing the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian church?

*Answer* 1. Because we believed that those bodies with which we stood connected, acted contrary to their own rules.

2. But especially because the Confession of Faith, or standard of that church, contained several things which we viewed as contrary to the word of God; on which account we could not retain it as the standard of our faith, or submit to be judged and condemned by its dictates. This we saw evidently to be the design of Synod. Other reasons, and the train of circumstances, which, in a gradual chain, brought the matter to that issue, are fully exhibited in our apology, to which we refer all who want information. While we were let alone, we were willing to let the Confession of Faith alone; but as soon as we found that our sentiments were to be brought to that standard, we renounced its authority.

*Question* 2. Can any method of accommodation be proposed which may induce you to return to the jurisdiction of that church, and heal the division which has taken place in the Synod of Kentucky?

*Answer.* To the first part of this question, we answer in the negative; so long as they retain the Confession of Faith as the standard of doctrine and discipline, because we cannot receive that book as our standard.

When we withdrew, we considered ourselves freed from all creeds but the Bible; and since that time, by constant application to it, we are led farther from the idea of adopting creeds and confessions as standards, than we were at first; consequently to come under the jurisdiction of that church now, is entirely out of the question.

We feel ourselves citizens of the world; God our common Father; all men our brethren by nature, and all Christians our brethren in Christ. This principle of universal love to Christians, gains ground in our hearts, in proportion as we get clear of particular attachments to party. We therefore cannot put ourselves in a situation which would check the growth of so benign a temper, and make us fight under a party standard.

Notwithstanding we conceive that we can propose a method of accommodation, which, with the divine blessing, will heal the division which subsists between both ministers and people throughout the bounds of the Synod of Kentucky, as follows:

1. Let us remember that all Christians are one in Christ; members of his body, partakers of his nature, and heirs of his kingdom; therefore they have no power over one another to cut off, exclude, or unite.
2. Let us pray for more of the uniting, cementing spirit.
3. Treat differences in lesser matters with christian charity and mutual forbearance, and bend our united force to the common cause.
4. Give up the care of the church to God, by constant fervent prayer; counsel, admonish, advise, reprove, comfort, and strengthen one another, as necessity may require, in the spirit of love and meekness; then will be accomplished that saying, that "of the rest, durst no man join himself unto them."

It was thought proper to publish these proceedings, and with them, "An address from the Synod of Kentucky, to the churches under their care."

The address is as follows,

*Dear Brethren*—It is with much satisfaction we inform you, that the kingdom of our divine Redeemer is extending its limits, and diffusing abroad its gracious influences. When we cast our eyes toward the eastern continent, we are revived with the prospect. Many vigorous and pious exertions are making in Europe, that the light of the gospel may be afforded to the benighted corners of the earth. The Sun of righteousness appears to be rising with healing in his wings. In Africa, Asia, and the Islands of the South Sea, the name of Jesus begins to be known, the standard of the great Redeemer is erected, and many are flocking to it; in America also, the Lord seems in a remarkable manner to be visiting his heritage.

By consulting that part of the extracts of the minutes of the General Assembly, published with this address, you will see what strenuous, and unremitting endeavours are making by that body, to promote the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. (See No. 3.) God seems to be giving the heathen to his Son for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.

We do with unfeigned hearts join with you to give thanks to Almighty God, that he has in so remarkable a manner visited these parts of the earth where our lot is cast; that he has made the wilderness a fruitful field, has warmed the hearts of many of his people with his love, and brought many sinners among us to the knowledge of the truth. We now solemnly promise to you and to each other, that we will unite all our endeavours to promote the essential parts of this revival.

It is, however, with deep regret, that we are constrained again to call your attention to that most unhappy division which has taken place in the Synod of Kentucky, tending greatly to becloud this glorious day, divide the hearts of God's people, and damp the flame of Christian love.

We are sensible, that the interests of religion depend much upon the harmony and unity of professing Christians. Our design is not to foment divisions, but as far as in our power, to establish the minds of sincere inquirers on the firm basis of truth. Since the circular letter which was before directed to the churches under our care was written, the ground on which our suspended brethren stand, is considerably changed.

We therefore conceive it to be our indispensable duty to give you a just and true account of their present standing. They have now not only rejected the authority of the Presbyteries and Synod, and the pacific measures pursued by them, but have also refused to hearken to the entreaties and counsels of the General Assembly, by their committee, appointed for the express purpose of bringing about a conciliation. They can now no longer, with any appearance of truth, publish to the world that they were illegally and untenderly dealt with, when the members composing the committee of the General Assembly have approbated the proceedings of the Synod of Kentucky.

We beg leave to refer you to their own words on this subject. (See No. 1.) That you may be impartially informed of the present state of their minds, and also the measures used upon this occasion, we beg leave also to lay before you some extracts from the minutes of the joint committees, with a view of the subsequent proceedings. (See No. 2.)

Consider, dear brethren, the pernicious tendency of their present disorganizing plan. Under the specious pretence of honouring the sacred Scriptures, they would persuade you to reject all written or printed creeds and forms of discipline, alleging that those who adopt such, substitute them for divine inspiration.

But, dear brethren, we presume you need scarcely be informed of the absurdity of such insinuations. You know that we, you know that you yourselves, consider them differently. Confessions or creeds are only the doctrines which we believe to be revealed to us from heaven, collected from different parts of sacred Scripture, and brought into one view. Must not all who read their Bibles and believe them, form some opinion of what is taught therein? And where can be the criminality when they have thus searched and collected, to publish what they believe to be the truths of God? In so doing we act in open day, as children of the light, and do not leave the world to conjecture whether we be Pelagians, Semi-Pelagians, Catholics, Arminians, or Calvinists; or whether we differ essentially from them all. We do not leave those with whom we would unite in the most tender and endearing bonds, at a loss to know whether we believe or disbelieve what they esteem the essential doctrines of Christianity. Reject all written creeds! and why not with the same propriety all verbal ones? What must then follow? Those who believe our blessed Saviour to be no more than a mere man, and those who believe in his divine nature; those who believe that God will manifest an eternal displeasure against sin, and those who believe he will finally receive all wicked men and devils into his favour; in short, those who believe the truth, and those whose creed exhibits the most glaring errors and contradictions, may all unite together, enjoy the same privileges, and surround the same board of communion. Can light and darkness have fellowship together? Or can there be concord between Christ and Belial? Is there no necessity for a people, about to put themselves under the pastoral care of a shepherd, to know what kind of doctrines they are to be taught? or is it perfectly indifferent which of the above contradictory systems they receive?

But if we attend to their sentiments on church government and discipline, we will find them no less anti-scriptural, and subversive of all good order in Christ's kingdom. Their own declaration is, "Christians have no power over one another to cut off, exclude, or unite." [See page 326.]

But it will be seriously asked, dear brethren, in what light these suspended members are to be considered.

As private Christians, we hope you will esteem them just so far as their sentiments and practice correspond with the word of God. But they are not to be considered by you as clothed with any ministerial authority, or legally qualified to administer any of the ordinances of God's house—of such authority these men can give no evidence. As to an internal call, God only is judge. The external evidence, by which alone the world can judge, is the testimonials of licensure and ordination, "by the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." 1 Tim. iv. 13. It is true, these men were once set apart to the ministry in the usual way; but it is likewise true, that several Presbyteries constituted into a Synod, have suspended them from the exercise of their ministerial functions.

That God has invested the church judicatories with such a power, is evident from the holy Scriptures.

The keys of God's visible kingdom are put into the hands of church officers; and they have power, not only to invest men with authority, but to suspend, depose, and cut off, when their sentiments and conduct are contrary to the word of God, and the received doctrines of the church. "A man that is an heretic, after the first and second admonition, reject." Titus iii. 10. The evident design of church censure is to reclaim offenders, and prevent offences in those who have not yet transgressed. "Them who sin rebuke before all, that others may fear." 1 Tim. v. 20. And in order to produce these effects, the members of the church are commanded, in the name of Christ, to withdraw from such as walk disorderly, that they may be ashamed: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother who walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received from us; and if any obey not our word, by this epistle, note that man and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed." 2 Thess. iii. 6. 14.

It cannot be reasonably denied, that it is disorderly for any person to preach the word, or administer the ordinances of the gospel, who is not clothed with ministerial authority. Compare 2 Chron. xxvi. 18, with Heb. v. 4.

To attend therefore upon such ministrations, is at least to encourage disorder. Such conduct is a breach of God's law, and is a moral evil. If it be admitted that God has instituted the exercise of discipline as a mean of reclaiming offenders, those who take persons under church censure into their bosom and caress them, defeat the intention of the ordinances of God, harden such offenders and endanger their souls.

Dear brethren, we are very unwilling to say any thing respecting their great zeal and apparent engagedness in preaching the word, and administering the ordinances.

But, however disagreeable it may be, yet a regard for your souls and the cause of truth, obliges us to observe, that gravity and apparent zeal have been usually attempted to gain the ear and confidence of the public, by a great variety of sects that have sprung up in the Christian Church since the Reformation.

We apprehend, many honest persons among you have great difficulties in your mind, arising from your former attachment to the men who have been suspended. You are anxiously desiring to obtain liberty to commune and hold Christian intercourse with them. We would wish to gratify you in this particular, could we without violating the precepts of the gospel; we refer you upon this subject to Matt. chap. x., and Rom. xvi. 17, 18, together with the passages of Scripture already quoted, and to the uniform practice of all well regulated churches.

Dear brethren, as we take no pleasure in depreciating the characters of others, we forbear to make further remarks—but entreat you in the name of Jesus Christ, to remember that men who have renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church, cannot with propriety be countenanced by those who are friendly to order; and consequently those who attend on their ministrations must be considered as opening afresh the wounds with which the church has been made to bleed, and causing the children of God in many parts of the world to weep in distress. Grieve not your aged brethren, who have long borne the burdens of the church, and laboured to maintain peace and unity therein. Beware lest you wound the lambs of Christ's flock, and cast a stumbling block in the way of sinners. Let us not tear down the barriers by which order has long been preserved. Open not the door by which men of corrupt principles may enter, and disseminate their poisonous sentiments among our unguarded youth, who are by nature more prone to imbibe error than truth. We therefore pray you, dear brethren, as you regard the glory of God, the peace of Zion, your own comfort, the salvation of your dear offspring, and the happiness of your fellow men, that you do not countenance or aid in any way, what may appear inimical to the peace and prosperity of Zion.

'Now the God of Peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever. Amen.' JAMES KEMPER, *Moderator.*

JOHN P. CAMPBELL, *Clerk.*

It appears that this meeting of the Synod and the Assembly's committee, took place at an unfavourable period, and when it was too late to effect a conciliation. The dissenting brethren had already taken their ground. They had declared and published their sentiments; they had erected their standard, and enlisted a number of zealous disciples. It was a time when the public mind was greatly agitated and divided on religious subjects, and a spirit of disputation greatly prevailed. It was the opinion of many, that the dissenters had been at great pains to counteract the influence of the committee before they met on this business. They had appointed a camp meeting (so called) the Sabbath immediately preceding the meeting of Synod, and given notice of it in the public papers. This meeting was appointed at a place called Bethel; and the reason assigned for appointing it at this place was, that it was central to three States, viz: Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio. It was also stated in the publication, that the Lord's Supper would be administered, their sentiments explained, and that a number of preachers were expected. A vast concourse of people assembled. Numbers came from the distance of between one and two hundred miles, and encamped on the ground for several days. The Lord's Supper was administered to a promiscuous multitude, and nearly to all who desired to participate. This extraordinary meeting, however, was thought, upon the whole, to have operated against their cause. The more judicious part of the audience disapproved of such disorder and confusion, and left the place disgusted.

This representation may serve to give some idea of the state of affairs in that part of the country when the Synod met. It will not, therefore, appear strange that the endeavours of the committee to effect a reconciliation and restore peace, proved abortive.

Upon the whole, it appears that however the committee may have failed in accomplishing the great object contemplated by the General Assembly in their appointment, their mission has not been altogether fruitless; but, on the contrary, productive of several salutary effects. They met with a cordial reception, not only from the Synod, but also from all who owned the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian church in that place. It had a beneficial influence on the public mind, as it manifested the solicitous concern of the General Assembly for a distant and suffering member of their body. It had a happy tendency to reclaim some, and establish others who were wavering, and seemed to 'halt between two opinions.'"

The above report having been considered, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That they highly approve the firm and temperate measures taken by the Synod of Kentucky, and the committee of Assembly that met with them; and are of opinion, that the committee, besides the pecuniary indemnity assigned them, are entitled to the thanks of the Assembly for the diligence, prudence, zeal, and fidelity, with which they appear to have executed their commission.

The Committee of Missions appeared before the Assembly, and made a report on the subject of their appointment, comprising a variety of interesting communications.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the consideration of this report be the order for next Tuesday morning.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 10 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 10 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Read, of the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly as a commissioner from that Presbytery. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

Mr. William M. Brown, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of Carlisle, appeared in the house as a commissioner from that Presbytery to this Assembly. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to a free conversation on the state of religion.

The Rev. Dr. McKnight, Messrs. Lyman, Blythe, and King, were appointed a committee to take notes of the information that shall be given; to digest and form the same into a connected report, and lay it before the Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

The members, being called in the order of the roll, gave such information on this subject, as their local situations enabled them to give. Having made progress, the Assembly adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Nathaniel Harris, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the Assembly as a commissioner from that Presbytery. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member.

The Assembly resumed the free conversation on the state of religion. Having made farther progress, they adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the conversation on the general state of religion. Accounts were received from most of the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly; and some interesting details were given by the delegates from the General Association of Connecticut respecting the appearances of religion in that State.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Assembly will make no change in the members of the Board of Trustees for the present year.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly took into consideration the report of the Committee of Missions.

On this subject the following resolutions were adopted, viz:

1. That the Committee of Missions be authorized, in case they think it proper, to apply to the General Government, or to any of the particular State governments, for obtaining aid in supporting the school already established under the care of the Rev. Mr. Blackburn among the Cherokee Indians, or any other school or schools which may be established among any of the Indian Nations, or for promoting their civilization in general.

2. That the Trustees be authorized and requested to grant warrants to the proper persons for the payment of the sums of money due to the missionaries of last year. who have made their returns. That is to say,

| | |
|---|---|
| To the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, Stated Missionary, the balance due to him being, | $287.99 |
| Rev. John Lindsley, do. do. | 83.68 |
| Rev. Matthew La Rue Perine, do. do. | 60.22 |
| Rev. John Close, do. do. | 40.33 |
| Rev. Dr. Thomas Read, | 33.33 |
| Rev. John E. Latta, | 33.33 |
| Mr. James Robinson, | 66.66 |
| Mr. John Chavis, | 66.66 |
| And to the Rev. Gideon Blackburn, expenses incurred in support of the Indian school under his care, &c. | 500.00 |
| Total, | $1172.20 |

3. That this Assembly approve the conduct of the Committee of Missions, in recommending to the Trustees when the Assembly was not in session, to grant warrants to sundry persons for the payments of several sums of money amounting to $374.89.

4. That the Committee of Missions be authorized to publish, in the Missionary Magazine, interesting communications from the journals of the missionaries before they shall have been laid before the General Assembly.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

A letter from the Presbytery of Cumberland, signed by James McGready, as their Moderator, was received and read.

In this letter the Presbytery give a detail of the rise, progress, and present state of a revival of religion within their limits; and state that they were pleased with the general tenor of the pastoral letter of last Assembly; but were much hurt by a few sentiments expressed in that letter, which were supposed to be levelled against some things connected with the said revival. In fine, they pray the Assembly to reconsider this subject, and take such measures as may be thought proper to prevent the evil consequences which those sentiments might otherwise produce.

The consideration of this letter was made the order for to-morrow morning.

The Assembly read the reports which have been received from the Presbyteries relative to certain amendments in the Constitution, transmitted to them and submitted to their consideration by last Assembly.

On motion, *Resolved,* That Messrs. Armstrong, McCurdy, and Lewis, be a committee to take these reports into consideration, and report to this Assembly which of the said amendments, if any, have been approved by a majority of the Presbyteries.

An inquiry was instituted whether the Presbyteries belonging to the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and to the Synod of Philadelphia, (agreeably to the recommendation of last Assembly,) have made contributions for defraying the expenses of commissioners to the General Assembly, coming from the remote parts of the country.

It appeared, in consequence, that some of the Presbyteries conceiving themselves exempted from the contribution by their great distance from the usual place of the Assembly's meeting, had not attempted to raise the funds contemplated; that others have recommended to their churches to make collections, but without effect; and that the Presbytery of Philadelphia alone has efficiently complied with the order of last Assembly on this subject. By an extract from their minutes it appeared that they have authorized the Assembly to draw on their Treasurer, Isaac Snowden, Jr., for the sum of eighty dollars, to be applied to the purposes aforesaid.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Davenport, William Latta, and Alexander Fullerton, be a committee to appropriate the above sum of money to the objects for which it was intended.

The committee appointed by last Assembly to appropriate the interest of certain moneys in the funds of the College of New Jersey, given for the education of poor and pious youth, made no report.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. Henry Kollock, and George S. Woodhull, be a committee to meet with the Trustees of the College, the last Wednesday of September next, and direct the appropriation of the whole of said interest that shall have accrued, and report to next Assembly.

The Assembly renewed the order to Presbyteries and individuals who have received, or shall receive, religious books for distribution, to report annually to the standing Committee of Missions, the distribution made, the effects produced, and the books, if any, remaining on hand.

The committee to whom were referred the reports of the Presbyteries on the amendments of the Constitution, reported,

That the Presbytery of Oneida has approved all the proposed amendments.
The Presbytery of Albany all except No. 4.
The Presbytery of Columbia all except Nos. 4 and 13.
The Presbytery of Hudson, the whole.
The Presbytery of Long Island, the whole except No. 4.
The Presbytery of New Brunswick, only Nos. 4 and 5.
The Presbytery of Philadelphia, the whole.
The Presbytery of New Castle, all except the first four.
The Presbytery of Lewes has approved Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 12, 13, 14, and No. 4, as formerly determined by them.
The Presbytery of Baltimore has approved the whole, except No. 1, and part of No. 13.
The Presbytery of Carlisle, the whole except No. 13.
The Presbytery of Redstone, the whole.
The Presbytery of Hanover, all except No. 1.
The Presbytery of Winchester, all except Nos. 1 and 5.
The Presbytery of Ohio, the whole.
The Presbytery of Lexington, the whole.
The Presbytery of Washington, the whole.
The Presbytery of Cumberland, the whole.
The Presbytery of Abingdon, the whole.
The Presbytery of Huntingdon, the whole.
The Presbytery of Erie, all except No. 1.
The Presbytery of West Lexington, the whole.
The Presbytery of Orange, the whole.

The Presbytery of Hopewell, the whole.

The Second Presbytery of South Carolina has disapproved the whole

The Committee farther reported, that the amendments Nos. 5 and 12, have been approved by twenty-three Presbyteries; Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, by twenty-two Presbyteries; No. 4, by twenty Presbyteries; No. 13, by twenty-one Presbyteries; No. 1, by eighteen Presbyteries.

That upon inquiry, they found that there are thirty-one Presbyteries, and no more, under the care of the General Assembly, and consequently that all the amendments proposed by last Assembly, have been approved; and on their part sanctioned, by a majority of the Presbyteries.

The farther consideration of this report was deferred till to-morrow.

Mr. Jamieson obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The committee appointed to draw up and present to the house a summary of the information received in the Assembly, during the free conversation on the general state of religion, exhibited their report.

The report having been read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

"The information which has been received respecting the state of religion within the bounds of the General Assembly during the last year, exhibits a variegated scene. Whilst on the one hand, it presents many things which are just cause of gratitude and rejoicing; on the other, it brings into view some calculated to produce humiliation and regret. In several congregations, particularly on Long Island, in the bounds of the Synod of Albany, and in the western parts of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, there have been considerable revivals of religion. The number of adults who have been received into the church in different parts, by baptism, as well as those who have been admitted to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, has been considerable. Such as have been added to the church during the revivals which have taken place in times past, have generally, and indeed almost universally, proved steadfast in the faith, been progressive in their Christian course, and evidenced the sincerity of their profession by the holiness of their lives and conversation; whilst instances of apostasy have been very rare. Praying societies have been established in many places, and generally well attended. In those congregations which enjoy the preaching of the gospel, and the administration of its ordinances in a stated manner, there is generally manifested a growing attention to the things of religion. A more than usual anxiety, and more vigorous exertions have also been manifested by vacant congregations, to have the institutions of religion statedly among them. In several places, the highly important duty of catechizing has been more attended to than formerly, and has produced those salutary effects which we have reason to expect will always flow from it.

The prospects with respect to the Indians are highly encouraging. A school has been established among the Cherokees, in the state of Tennessee, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Blackburn, with flattering prospects. Some of the Indian tribes to the westward, seem also favourably disposed to receive the gospel, and have expressed an earnest desire to have schools established among them. The school among the Catawbas, established by the Synod of the Carolinas, is also continued. And several young men of different tribes have received, and are now receiving their education under the care of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

Whilst there is satisfactory evidence to believe, that there has been a great and glorious work of God carried on throughout a widely extended portion of country, to the south and west, within the bounds of the General Assembly, and that many souls have been savingly brought home to God, it is proper to observe that in general this has been accompanied with very uncommon and extraordinary effects on the body. There appears also reason to believe that in certain places, some instances of these bodily affections have been of such a nature, and proceeded to such lengths as greatly tended to impede the progress and to tarnish the glory of what, in its first stages, was so highly promising. That God has all the powers both of our mortal and immortal part, absolutely under his direction and subject to his control, and can influence and affect them according to his sovereign pleasure, will not be doubted by any who acknowledge him as the Framer of our bodies, and the Father of our spirits; and that in him we live, and move, and have our being.

Experience and the very reason and nature of things, also manifest that human nature may be deeply affected, and even overpowered by particular views and impressions of spiritual and divine things. But it is equally manifest that these effects may be, in a considerable degree, produced by natural causes, or by the agency of spiritual and subordinate beings. Satan may transform himself now, as well as formerly, into an angel of light. It is enjoined upon us not to believe every spirit, but to try the spirits whether they be of God. As the magicians endeavoured by their enchantments to imitate and discredit the miracles performed by Moses; so has it been an artifice of Satan in every period of the church, to endeavour to obstruct and bring a reproach upon a revival of religion, by counterfeiting the operations of the Spirit of God, and exciting those who were concerned in such revival, to extravagant and disorderly proceedings. True religion is a most rational and scriptural thing. One of the unhappy circumstances usually attending a revival of religion is, that some who are engaged in it, are prone to consider all its concomitants, and every thing connected with it, as sacred. This affords the adversary an opportunity unsuspected, of sowing tares among the wheat, to the great prejudice of the approaching harvest. In times of the revival of religion, it highly concerns us carefully to guard against grieving the Holy Spirit of God, and provoking him to suspend or withdraw his gracious influences, either by resisting, or not duly improving his operations, or by yielding to the suggestions and influences of Satan. All religious experience is to be brought to the test of divine truth. To the law and to the testimony, if it be not conformable to these, it is because it is spurious. God is a God of order and not of confusion; and whatever tends to destroy the comely order of his worship, is not from him, for he is consistent with himself. Whilst then the General Assembly mourn over and lament those irregular and disorderly proceedings which have taken place in some parts, and which have tended to obscure and tarnish the glory of this good work of God, they rejoice that in general they appear to subside, that the minds of the people are reverting to more rational and spiritual views and exercises; that but few of the ministers in their connection, have countenanced or encouraged these wild extravagances, or considered any bodily exercises as a criterion, by which to form a judgment of a person's character or state, but have formed their opinion in this case from the conformity of their views and exercises to the word of God. The Assembly are happy to find that the pernicious and destructive principles of infidelity, and "philosophy falsely so called" continue to lose their influence, or are less avowed; whilst at the same time, they have cause to lament that formality and lukewarmness in religion seem to prevail in some of our churches, and that the sacred institutions of the gospel are attended with so little power. Multitudes continue careless and secure, perishing in ignorance and in sin, whilst "the love of many waxes cold." A respectful and serious attention however to the institutions of religion seems pretty generally to have prevailed, and an increasing union and harmony in societies which are composed of Presbyterians and Congregationalists. We are also happy to learn by the delegates from our sister churches of Connecticut, that the highly useful practice of catechizing has been more than commonly attended to among them, that their churches are in peace, and there is a generally increased attention to the things of religion among them.

Upon the whole, the Assembly find no inconsiderable cause to bless and praise God for the tokens of his goodness; they find also many things which are cause of humiliation before him. They feel themselves called upon from the circumstances in which they are placed, to renewed and vigorous exertions in the cause of their God and Redeemer, in hope that "their labour shall not be in vain in the Lord." And they do earnestly call the people under their care, to activity and perseverance in the Christian course, looking to the mercy of God unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory in the churches, world without end. Amen.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. David Comfort, by permission of the Assembly, resigned his seat in favour of the Rev. Robert Finley, the principal named in the commission, who being present took his seat as a member.

Mr. Henry Southard, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the house as a commissioner from that Presbytery. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat accordingly.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the letter from the Presbytery of Cumberland.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Messrs. Marques, Blythe, Milledoler, and Griffin, be a committee to prepare the draught of a letter from this Assembly to the Presbytery of Cumberland, in answer to their letter to this body and lay the same before the house as soon as may be convenient.

An extract from the records of the Presbytery of New York was laid before the Assembly and read. From this and the explanation given, it appeared that a certain Aaron C. Collins, formerly a member of that Presbytery, had been deposed by them from the office of the gospel ministry; that the crimes for which he was deposed were scandalous and highly aggravated; that his submission to the sentence of deposition had been only partial; he having exercised the functions of a gospel minister during a part of the time he lay under the sentence; that Mr. Collins had lately applied to that Presbytery to restore him to his office, and certain circumstances were stated as evidences of his penitence. The Presbytery therefore requested the advice of the General Assembly in the premises. And as the principal crime for which Mr. Collins had been deposed was committed within the limits of the General Association of Connecticut, which had formerly taken cognizance of the offence, the Presbytery requested the co-operation of the Assembly for bringing the case before the Association for their advice.

The Assembly having taken this subject into consideration, and obtained the necessary information,

*Resolved*, 1st. That they cannot advise the Presbytery of New York to restore Mr. Collins under existing circumstances.

2d. That this Assembly comply with the latter request made by the Presbytery of New York; they accordingly did, and hereby do enjoin it on their delegates to the next General Association, to take the necessary measures for bringing this subject before that body, for their advice.

Mr. Savage obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The meeting for special prayer and other religious exercises, was duly attended in this church last evening by the members of the Assembly, and a large concourse of people.

An appeal by Miss Eliza Dunlap, from a judgment of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, was brought in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures.

*Resolved*, That the consideration of this appeal be the order for to-morrow morning.

Dr. Robert Smith, by permission of the Assembly, resigned his seat in the house, in favour of Mr. William Ruth, a ruling elder named in the commission, and appointed to serve in case of the absence of Dr. Smith.

Mr. Ruth being present, took his seat as a member.

An extract from the records of the Presbytery of Baltimore was read, whereby the Presbytery instruct their commissioners to this Assembly, to endeavour to engage the Assembly to pass a resolution, earnestly recommending it to all the ministers under their jurisdiction, to refuse to join in rendering any kind of funeral honours to any person who shall have fallen in a duel; or is known to have fought a duel, or to have given or accepted a challenge for that purpose.

The Assembly took into consideration the resolution submitted by the Presbytery of Baltimore, and after several modifications thereof had been proposed and rejected, the following resolution was moved and seconded, viz:

*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to all the clergy subordinate to this Assembly, that they scrupulously refuse to join in rendering any kind of funeral honours to any person who shall have fallen in a duel.

*Resolved*, That Dr. McKnight, Mr. Waterman, Mr. Marques, Mr. Blythe, and Mr. Griffin, be a committee to take this resolution, and the subject generally into consideration; to draught and lay before this house such resolution or resolutions as may be proper, in the opinion of the committee, to be adopted by the General Assembly.

A communication was received from the Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, &c., certified by their Secretary, informing this Assembly, that the Trustees have re-elected the Rev. Philip Milledoler, Secretary, and Mr. Isaac Snowden, jun., Treasurer of the Corporation for the ensuing year; that they had appointed Messrs. Robert Ralston, Jonathan Smith, and William Haslet, a committee to receive and liquidate such accounts as the General Assembly shall refer to the Board for that purpose.

The Trustees also laid before the Assembly one copy of the original articles of agreement, made between the Board and William P. Farrand, printer, relative to the publication of the General Assembly's Magazine and Evangelical Intelligencer; which agreement was read and laid on the table.

The Assembly having considered the said articles, expressed their entire approbation thereof, and their thanks to the Committee of Missions for the zeal and fidelity with which they have commenced this important work.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the amendments contemplated to be made in the Constitution.

In addition to the amendments sanctioned by last Assembly, several farther amendments proposed by the Presbyteries of New York and Albany, were laid before the Assembly and read. Whereupon, a motion was made and seconded, as follows:

Whereas, The adoption of any one of the amendments proposed, will delay the contemplated edition of the Confession of Faith, &c., (so much wanted by the churches,) at least one year longer than would be otherwise necessary,

*Resolved*, That the additional amendments proposed be wholly rejected.

This motion being under consideration, the Assembly

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Benjamin Hayden, by permission of the Assembly, resigned his seat in the house in favour of Mr. Nicholas Du Bois, the alternate named in his commission, who being present took his place as a member of the Assembly.

The motion under consideration in the forenoon, respecting the amendments to the constitution, recurring, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That the farther consideration thereof be deferred till to-morrow morning.

The committee to whom were referred the reports of the several Synods, and the duplicate reports of the Presbyteries, reported, that reports were exhibited to them from the Synods of Albany, New York and New Jersey, Philadelphia, Virginia, and Pittsburgh, with duplicates from several of their Presbyteries; that in general, the reports appeared to be regular. The committee however observed, that in some of the reports there appear to be omissions of too much importance to pass unnoticed. The report from the Synod of Pittsburgh is without a signature. Also the duplicate reports from Erie, Redstone, and Ohio. The reports from the Presbyteries of Lexington and West Lexington, have neither date nor signature. The reports from Winchester and Carlisle Presbyteries, are without date; and also the report from the Presbytery of Hanover. The report from the Synod of New York and New Jersey is signed *Stated Clerk*, but no name.

The committee farther remarked, that many of the Presbyteries have altogether neglected to report the number of persons baptized, and the communicants in their respective churches.

A reference from the Synod of Philadelphia was laid before the Assembly. By an extract from the minutes of that Synod, it appeared, that Mr. John Waugh, a licentiate under the care of the Presbytery of New Castle, had, for special reasons, requested the Presbytery to take measures for his ordination, *sine titulo*. The Presbytery accordingly presented the request to Synod, and the Synod finding that the authority in this case is, by the constitution, expressly vested in the General Assembly, agreed to refer the matter to them for their decision. The Assembly having taken the subject into consideration,

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of New Castle be, and they hereby are permitted and authorized to ordain the said Mr. Waugh to the work of the gospel ministry *sine titulo*, provided that the Presbytery, from a full view of his qualifications and other attending circumstances, shall think it expedient.

The Assembly called for the reports of the agents who were appointed to raise contributions for the permanent fund of the General Assembly.

Dr. Read reported, That he had been prevented by certain imperious circumstances from making any progress in this business during the past year, but expressed his hopes of executing the business assigned him in the course of the coming year, if his appointment shall be continued.

The Rev. Nathaniel Irwin made a similar report, and added a request that the Assembly would take measures for liquidating his accounts.

The Assembly *Resolved*, That the agents who have heretofore been employed in this service, continue their exertions, at discretion, during the ensuing year, and report to next Assembly.

The appeal of Mr. William Adams from a decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, was laid before the Assembly. The Minutes of the Synod respecting the case being read, it appeared that the said William Adams had married his brother's widow; that his case having been brought before the Presbytery of Erie, the said Presbytery had pronounced his marriage unconstitutional, and that the Synod, upon an appeal, had confirmed the judgment of the Presbytery. From this judgment of the Synod, Mr. Adams appealed to the General Assembly.

The Assembly having taken the subject into consideration, were informed by some of their members who are also members of the Synod of Pittsburgh, that Mr. Adams's moral and religious character is perfectly fair and exemplary, except in what respects his marriage, which was contracted above fifteen years ago.

A member of the Synod farther stated, that Mr. Adams cannot conveniently attend this Assembly, and requested that his appeal may be decided, his absence notwithstanding.

After some discussion of the subject, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That Dr. Read, Messrs. Waterman, Cathcart, Glendy, and Woodhull, be a committee to take the same into consideration, and report to this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

Mr. Parsell obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The missionary sermon which, agreeably to a standing rule, should have been delivered on last Monday evening, was, on account of the weather, deferred till last evening, when a discourse was delivered in this church by the Rev. Edward D. Griffin, of the Presbytery of New York, from Col. i. 16: "For by him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by him, and for him."

*Resolved*, That the standing Committee of Missions be directed to present the thanks of this Assembly to Mr. Griffin for his sermon; and that they request a copy thereof, and take measures for publishing the same, either in a separate pamphlet, or in one or more numbers of the Missionary Magazine, according as they shall judge the one or the other mode of publication most expedient.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to hear and consider the appeal of Miss Eliza Dunlap, from a judgment of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, which confirmed the sentence of the Presbytery and Session of New York, excluding her from the distinguishing privileges of the church. The minutes of the several judicatories respecting this case having been read, and the parties fully heard, it was

*Resolved*, That this Assembly do approve and ratify the decision of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, whereby the said sentence of the Presbytery and Session of New York was confirmed.

Mr. Watson obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended, and it is hereby earnestly recommended to the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly, to take measures for promoting subscriptions for the Assembly's Magazine. And as the continued existence of this Magazine, intended not only to entertain and instruct, but also to aid the missionary fund, will depend on a constant supply of suitable materials for the work,

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries enjoin it on their members to use their endeavours to procure and forward to Mr. William P. Farrand, the printer, suitable communications for this magazine, especially of the original kind.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries and ministers subordinate to the General Assembly, use their influence to promote the sale of the pamphlet, called "Glad Tidings," published by order of the General Assembly, containing an interesting account of the late revivals of religion, and the progress of Christianity in America, in Europe, and some other parts of the world; and that they transmit the proceeds of sale to the treasurer of the corporation, Isaac Snowden, junior.

Such ministers and other gentlemen as may be disposed to promote the sale of this pamphlet, and are known to the Committee of Missions, may be supplied with any number of copies, by orders sent to the printer, Miss Jane Aitken, No. 20 North Third street, Philadelphia.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Committee to whom was referred the proposition from the Presbytery of Baltimore, and the resolution moved in this Assembly on Thursday last, respecting duelling, exhibited their report. The report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The General Assembly having taken into serious consideration the unhappy prevalence of the practice of duelling in the United States, and being anxiously desirous to contribute what may be in their power, consistently with their character and situation, to discountenance and abolish this practice,

*Resolved*, unanimously, That they do, in the most unequivocal manner, declare their utter abhorrence of the practice of duelling, and of all measures tending thereto, as originating from the malevolent dispositions of the human heart, and a false sense of honour; as a remnant of Gothic barbarism; as implying a presumptuous and highly criminal appeal to God as the sovereign Judge; as utterly inconsistent with every just principle of moral conduct; as a direct violation of the sixth commandment, and destructive of the peace and happiness of families; and the Assembly do hereby recommend it to the ministers in their connection to discountenance by all proper means in their power this scandalous practice.

*Resolved*, also, That it be, and it is hereby recommended, to all the ministers under the care of the Assembly, that they scrupulously refuse to attend the funeral of any person who shall have fallen in a duel; and that they admit no person who shall have fought a duel, given or accepted a challenge, or been accessary thereto, unto the distinguishing privileges of the Church, until he manifest a just sense of his guilt, and give satisfactory evidence of repentance.

From the last of the above resolutions Mr. Armstrong dissented, and requested his dissent may be recorded, which was granted.

*Resolved*, That the delegates from this Assembly to the next General Association of Connecticut, present to them one hundred copies of the Extracts from the Minutes of last General Assembly; that they request the Association to accept the same as an expression of the respect this Assembly feels for their brethren of Connecticut, and the desire they have to strengthen the bonds that unite us.

The committee to whom was referred the appeal of Mr. William Adams, from a decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported.

The report having been read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"Whereas, frequent decisions on marriages of a similar nature have been given by the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, and by the General Assembly; and whereas, it appeared on these occasions that while such marriages are offensive to some, to others they appear lawful, therefore this Assembly consider the subject doubtful and delicate, and do not think it expedient to express any opinion on the decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, in the present case. But in conformity to a decision made by last Assembly, on a marriage somewhat similar, this General Assembly refers the case of Mr. Adams to the session of the church of Rocky Spring, or that of any other in which he may be; and leave it to their discretion 'to act according to their own best lights, and the circumstances in which they find themselves placed.'"

The Assembly took into consideration the motion made on Thursday last respecting certain amendments to the Constitution, proposed by the Presbyteries of New York and Albany.

It was agreed to postpone the same, in order to introduce the following resolution, which was adopted as a substitute, viz:

*Resolved*, That although this Assembly wishes to pay due respect to every communication from the subordinate judicatories, especially on so important a subject; yet as the adopting and sending to the Presbyteries for their opinion, any farther amendments at this time, would delay the publication of the book (so much wanted by the churches) another year at least, the Assembly deem it inexpedient to consider, at this time, the amendments proposed by the Presbyteries of New York and Albany.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be requested to take measures for publishing a new edition of the Confession of Faith and Catechisms, the Plan of Government, Discipline, and Directory for worship of the Presbyterian Church in these United States.

And whereas, all the amendments proposed by last Assembly have been approved by a majority of the Presbyteries, and this approbation certified by them in writing to this Assembly,

*Resolved*, That the Trustees cause the said amendments to be incorporated in the Plan of Government and Discipline, the copy-right to be secured to the General Assembly, and draw warrants, from time to time, for the sums of money which may be necessary, during the progress of the whole work.

Mr. DuBois obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

The committee appointed to the service, reported the draught of a letter from this Assembly to the Presbytery of Cumberland.

The Assembly having read the same, and made some amendments in it, adopted it as follows:

"*Dear Brethren*—We have received, and attentively considered the respectful and interesting letter addressed to this Assembly by you. While we rejoice in the account of the glorious revival of religion with which you have been favoured, we regret that there has been any occasion for the General Assembly to express sentiments which have grieved you and the people of God in your parts. Although we do not see sufficient reason to retract the opinions which we have expressed on this subject, it is with pleasure we inform you, that the district alluded to in the address of last Assembly, and particularly referred to in your letter, was not within the bounds of the Presbytery of Cumberland.

For the sentiments which this Assembly entertain of the extraordinary bodily affections which have attended this revival, and extended over a large portion of our country, we refer you to our report on the state of religion for the present year. The sentiments expressed in this report have been formed with a spirit of tenderness and brotherly love, and from the most authentic information which we have been able to obtain, from different parts of the country.

Wishing you grace, mercy, and peace, we are affectionately your brethren in the Lord."

*Resolved*, That a copy of the above letter be signed by the Moderator, addressed and sent to the Moderator of the Presbytery of Cumberland, to be communicated.

Adjourned till Monday 9 o'clock, A. M. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

A letter was received from the Second Presbytery of South Carolina, stating that the Presbytery had received information that the last Assembly had declared the Presbytery of Charleston admissible, on certain conditions, to a union with the General Assembly, without their being connected with the Synod of the Carolinas; against such admission the Presbytery remonstrate, and assign several reasons why such an union should not be formed.

*Resolved*, That this letter be kept on the files of the General Assembly.

The following overture was brought in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, viz:

It is a melancholy fact, which requires no confirmation with those who are acquainted with the state of our church, that not only her welfare in particular, but the general and substantial interests of vital godliness, and of the Redeemer's kingdom, are suffering for the want of a greater number of able and faithful ministers of the gospel of our denomination. "Give us ministers," is the cry of the missionary regions;—"Give us ministers," is the importunate entreaty of our numerous and increasing vacancies —"Give us ministers," is the demand of many large and important congregations in our most populous cities and towns. It has been suggested by some, and perhaps not without reason, that if the number of our clergy were doubled, it would not exceed the demand which exists for their labours, provided they should be well furnished for their work. But to be well furnished is absolutely essential to their affording any material relief to the exigencies which are felt, and the complaints which are uttered. Numbers of weak or illiterate ministers, however pious, would bring little aid to a church, now found in circumstances in which the possession of vigorous and improved intellect is, in most cases, indispensable to the acceptance, the influence, and the success of her public teachers. On the other hand, numbers of powerful and learned ministers, without a correspondent portion of genuine and fervent piety, would only serve to banish true godliness from our church, and render her very existence an offence both to God and his people. Talents and piety must be united in the pastoral office, at least in a considerable number of individuals, or the multiplication of those who hold that office will be rather an incumbrance than an aid; will rather hinder than help the progress of true religion.

If then it be asked—What can be done more than we are now doing? It is answered, that there are two points to which it is believed that sufficient attention has not hitherto been given. The first is to endeavour to remove those discouragements of a temporal kind, which exist in our church and which are one cause why the ministerial office is not oftener sought by some of those who would be the best qualified to fill it. In common with other denominations in this country, our people have too often manifested a degree of backwardness to provide an adequate support for the ministers of religion. This has lately greatly been increased in various parts of our country by certain persons appearing as preachers of the gospel, and declaiming vehemently against a learned ministry, and the support of the clergy; declamations evidently proceeding from a desire in their authors, to render all the ministers of religion as ignorant and poor as themselves, that thus they may be delivered from their present painful sense of inferiority. Yet these clamours have had great effect in various portions of our country, especially in some places to the west and south, so that those who there look forward to the pastoral office, have need of an uncommon measure of self-denial, as they have nothing to expect but extreme and perpetual poverty unless they provide for themselves. It is respectfully suggested, that perhaps these misrepresentations and errors might be counteracted and removed by the General Assembly addressing a pastoral letter to their people, drawn up in that prudent and guarded manner which the delicacy of the subject demands; representing that the Assembly have no desire to see the clergy become a wealthy body; that they would deprecate such an event, as much as the people themselves; that it is, however, a gospel ordinance and the appointment of God that "they who preach the gospel should live of the gospel;" that many of our clergy cannot possibly live on what is now allowed them; that it is not less the interest of the people, than of the ministers themselves, that they should be able to devote themselves wholly to their work; that it is highly disagreeable to the Assembly, so much as to touch this subject, in which it may be supposed, suspected, and insinuated by some, that the members have a personal concern; that the Assembly, however, are constrained to this address by an overruling sense of duty, because their people are now suffering, and must shortly suffer in a much greater degree under the operations of this evil, if its progress be not arrested; that when God has work for his ministers to do among those who by their utter ignorance of the gospel may subject his ambassadors to peculiar hardships, and even to martyrdom itself, he will not fail, in all such cases, to raise up men to whom he will grant the necessary qualifications, &c., but that he does not bestow extraordinary endowments for ordinary occasions, and therefore where a people are acquainted with the gospel, and know it to be their duty to support its ministers, he is likely to leave them to want the gospel, if they do not use their endeavours to maintain the ministry in circumstances of comfort and respect.

The second point to which it is supposed that the Assembly might with advantage turn their attention is, to recommend it earnestly to the Presbyteries, perhaps to enjoin it on them, to look out among themselves, pious youth of promising talents, and endeavour to educate and bring them forward into the ministry. The idea here is, that what is recommended or enjoined should be made a presbyterial business, so that each Presbytery shall select the youth, whom by its own separate exertions it shall patronize and educate. Such exertions, it is believed, are likely to be made with far greater ease, cheerfulness, and spirit by each Presbytery within its own bounds, and in behalf of youth selected by its own acts; than if the proposition were, that each Presbytery should contribute something to a general fund, and for the general purpose of educating men for the gospel ministry. The youths selected, living commonly within the bounds of each Presbytery concerned, will be well known to a number of the members, will have their characters favourably represented, even to many of the individuals of the several congregations; and will usually have some particular friends who will afford them special aid in defraying the expenses which will be incurred in the prosecution of their studies. In a word, it is probable they will be regarded with much interest, both by the Presbytery and by many other pious and public spirited members of our church.

It is also believed that the plan here proposed is calculated to have a very happy influence, both on the Presbyteries and the youth who may be concerned in it. The Presbyteries may be expected to be careful in the choice of those whom they determine to patronize, because their own prudence and reputation will, in some measure, be staked on the good conduct and character of those who will appear as ministers of the gospel by their voluntary election and designation, from the very commencement of their preparatory studies. This perhaps will afford the best security that the nature of the case admits, that none but youth of capacity as well as of piety, shall be brought forward; and on the youth themselves, the influence of the circumstances in which they will be placed by this plan, promises to be extremely beneficial. These youth will constantly realize that the eye of the Presbytery is on them; that the public expectation is to be gratified or disappointed by them; and they can scarcely fail to exert all their powers to arrive at distinction in every laudable attainment. Some Presbyteries may be able to keep two or three such youths constantly in training. Other Presbyteries may not be able to support more than one. Some of the youth may partly, and almost wholly, maintain themselves on their own funds, and by the aid of their particular friends and relations, while they are prosecuting their studies; and may only need to be applied to and urged to come forward under the countenance of the Presbytery. In other cases, the Presbyteries will have to bear the greater part or the whole of the expense. This they may do by the contributions of the members, by the liberality of wealthy and charitably disposed individuals within their bounds, and elsewhere; and by contributions occasionally obtained from their congregations, which will be made with the greater freedom, when the purpose to which they are to be applied is distinctly known, and the parties to be benefited by them, are among themselves and a part of themselves. It is understood that the youth contemplated, are to be conducted by the Presbyteries through the whole of their academical course and theological studies; and at such schools, and under such teachers, as each Presbytery may choose to employ or recommend.

There are, at present, nearly forty Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly. If the plan here offered could be carried into complete effect, it would in a few years bring into the service of the church annually about as many well qualified ministers as there are now Presbyteries; and these, added to the number that could be introduced in the ordinary way, would probably afford a full supply. It is therefore very respectfully submitted to the Committee of Overtures, whether it would not be advisable to propose to the Assembly to write such a pastoral letter, and to issue such a recommendation or injunction to the Presbyteries as has been, here suggested.

Ashbel Green.

*Philadelphia, May* 22d, 1805.

Whereupon, *Resolved*, That as the above overture embraces objects of high importance to the interests of religion, and this General Assembly do not find themselves in a situation to take the necessary measures respecting them, they lie over for consideration until the meeting of the next General Assembly, to which we would earnestly recommend, that the subject be duly considered, and acted upon; and that the Presbyteries instruct their commissioners respecting the measures which they may think advisable to be adopted.

The Committee of Missions appeared before the Assembly and made a farther report, stating certain appropriations proper to be made, to meet debts incurred, and contracts made for missionary purposes; and suggesting the missionaries proper to be employed for the ensuing year, and their routes.

The Assembly having heard and considered this report,

*Resolved*, 1. That the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, be appointed a stated missionary for six months of the ensuing year, and receive the like compensation as heretofore; and as no other missionary has offered to serve in that part of the country, Mr. Chapman is directed and authorized to employ, at the expense of the Assembly, and with the approbation of the Presbyteries of Oneida and Geneva, two other missionaries, to travel three months each, under his instructions, said missionaries to be commissioned by the Committee of Missions, and report to them.

2. That the Rev. John Close be appointed a missionary for three months, to be employed in the parts he visited last year, and in the settlements on the Canada road, west of Lake Champlain.

3. That the Rev. Dr. Thomas Read be appointed a missionary for two months, to be employed on the peninsula between Delaware and Chesapeake bays.

4. That the Rev. James Tomkins employ two months in missionary labours in Hardy and Pendleton counties, Virginia.

5. That the Rev James Mitchell, of the Presbytery of Hanover, be appointed a missionary for two months, to be spent in Montgomery and the adjacent counties in the state of Virginia.

6. That the Rev. Gideon Blackburn be a missionary to the Cherokee Indians for two months.

7. That Mr. Samuel Wilson, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Lexington, be appointed a missionary for two months, to be employed in Fredericksburgh, Virginia, and the circumjacent country.

8. That Mr. Thomas Williamson, a licentiate of the Second Presbytery of South Carolina, spend three months in missionary services in the lower parts of the state of Ohio, and in the Indian Territory as low as Kaskaskias.

9. That Mr. James Hoge, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Lexington, serve as a missionary for six months in the state of Ohio, and the Natchez district.

10. That Mr. John Chavis be a missionary for six months, to pursue nearly the same route as last year, and employ himself chiefly among the blacks and people of colour.

11. That the Rev. John P. Campbell, of the Presbytery of Cumberland, or any other person to be designated by that Presbytery, spend two months in missionary labours within the bounds, and under the direction of the Presbytery of Cumberland.

12. That the Presbytery of New York be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, to minister in destitute places within their bounds.

13. That the like privilege be extended to the Presbytery of New Brunswick. The missionaries which shall be employed by these Presbyteries, shall be commissioned by the Committee of Missions, report to them, and be paid out of the funds of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the missionaries exercise their discretion as to the season of the year in which they shall perform the services assigned them.

*Resolved*, That the said missionaries be paid thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month for their services, they accounting for the sums they shall receive on their tours respectively; and that they each receive one month's pay in advance, if demanded.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly grant warrants for the payment to the following persons, of the sums of money annexed to their names respectively, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| To the Rev. Thomas Marques, for missionary services - - | $65 15 |
| " Nash Le Grand, " " - - | 91 65 |
| " Gideon Blackburn, in advance for Indian school, - | 500 00 |
| " Philip Milledoler, Stated Clerk, his salary for last year, and postage of letters, - - - - | 41 26 |
| Total, | $698 06 |

The Assembly proceeded to devise means for supplying the pulpits of the missionaries aforesaid, who have pastoral charges. Whereupon, it was

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of New Castle be directed to appoint supplies for Dr. Read's pulpit, during the period of his expected absence; that the Rev. Messrs. Henderson and Ramsey be a committee to appoint supplies for Mr. Blackburn's pulpit; that the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Finley and Samuel Robinson be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Campbell, or any other pastor who may serve in his stead.

The Rev. Mr. Finley and Mr. Southard obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

In consequence of a suggestion made by the Committee of Missions, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That the members of said committee resident in or near the city of Philadelphia, be increased to ten, and that one other member be added for each Synod, making in the whole seventeen.

An election being held, the following persons were chosen and appointed to form the Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz: in Philadelphia and the vicinity, the Rev. Drs. Samuel Blair and Ashbel Green, the Rev. Messrs. Philip Milledoler, Jacob J. Janeway, and George Potts, Dr. Elias Boudinot, Messrs. Ebenezer Hazard, Robert Smith, John Connelly and William Hazlet; of the Synod of Albany, the Rev. Jonas Coe; of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, the Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter; of the Synod of Philadelphia, the Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson; of the Synod of Pittsburgh, the Rev. James Hughes; of the Synod of Virginia, the Rev. George Baxter; of the Synod of Kentucky, the Rev. James Blythe; and of the Synod of the Carolinas, the Rev. William C. Davis.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be requested to take measures for inducing those ministers and others who have been employed to sell any books or pamphlets, the property of the Assembly, to render their accounts, and pay the balance in their hands respectively.

Whereas, in and by the general regulation, respecting reports from the inferior to the superior judicatories of the Church, made by the General Assembly in the year 1803, it is prescribed that on every fifth year, beginning with the year 1805, the reports to the General Assembly from the Synods and Presbyteries, besides their usual details, shall contain an account of the existing communicants in each church, and of the numbers of persons baptized the preceding year, distinguishing those who have been baptized in infancy from those that have been baptized in adult years; and whereas, this important article, intended to mark the progress of our Church, and its comparative condition at different periods, has been generally wanting in the reports to this Assembly,

*Resolved*, That it be, and it hereby is, enjoined on the Synods and Presbyteries in connection with the General Assembly, to take the most effectual measures to bring forward complete and accurate reports on this head to the next Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be authorized and requested to procure two hundred and fifty copies of Fuller's "Gospel Worthy of all Acceptation," and two hundred and fifty copies of Vincent's Exposition of the Shorter Catechism, to be distributed in places where such books are especially wanted, either gratis or otherwise, as the case may require.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be, and they are hereby authorized and requested, to grant a warrant in favour of the Rev. John Rice, for the payment of thirty-five dollars, to be applied to purchasing religious books, to be distributed among the people of colour within the bounds of Hanover Presbytery.

The janitor, John Lauder, exhibited his account for ten days' attendance on the Assembly, amounting to twenty dollars.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees grant him a warrant for the payment thereof.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be requested to liquidate the accounts of the Permanent Clerk, and of Robert Cathcart, Temporary Clerk; to allow the like compensation per diem, as was paid to these officers of the house the three preceding years, and to grant them warrants respectively for the same.

The Assembly read and revised the whole minutes from the beginning of the sessions, and made some verbal corrections.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, the third Thursday of May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Whereupon, The Moderator dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the constitution, and concluded with prayer.

[In consequence of the entire loss of the files of the General Assembly for several years, we are unable to make the usual summary, or to add, in the form of notes, illustrative documents which we expected we should have been able to do.—Editor.]

## 1806.

Philadelphia, *May* 15*th*, 1806.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator of last Assembly not attending, this Assembly was opened by the Rev. James F. Armstrong, the Moderator of the Assembly of the year 1804, with a sermon from John iii. 16, 17: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his

Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved."

After prayer the commissions were read, when it appeared, that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

Presbytery of Geneva—The Rev. Jedediah Chapman.

Presbytery of Oneida—The Rev. James Carnahan.

Presbytery of Columbia—The Rev. Samuel Blatchford. Mr. Jesse Fairchild, elder.

Presbytery of Albany—The Rev. Dr. Eliphalet Nott.

Presbytery of Hudson—The Rev. Ebenezer Grant, and Rev. William VanDoren.

Presbytery of New York—The Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter, Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, Rev. Gershom Williams, and Rev. Aaron Condict. Messrs. Robert Ogden, John Bingham, Matthew Freeman, and John Angus, elders.

Presbytery of New Brunswick—The Rev. James F. Armstrong, and Rev. George S. Woodhull. Messrs. John Bayard, Isaac Snowden, and David Bishop, elders.

Presbytery of Philadelphia—The Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, Rev. Mr. James Boyd, and Rev. Jacob J. Janeway. Messrs. John Mann, and Ebenezer Hazard, elders.

Presbytery of New Castle—The Rev. William Arthur, Rev. Nathan Grier, Rev. John E. Latta, and Rev. Samuel Martin. Messrs. Jacob Belville, and George McIlvaine, elders.

Presbytery of Carlisle—The Rev. Dr. Robert Cathcart, Rev. Joshua Williams, and Rev. Amos A. McGinley.

Presbytery of Lewes—The Rev. Samuel McMasters. Mr. Simon Kollock, elder.

Presbytery of Baltimore—The Rev. Dr. James Muir, and Rev. James Inglis. Mr. James Irwin, elder.

Presbytery of Huntingdon—The Rev. Thomas Wood.

Presbytery of Redstone—The Rev. James Powers, and Rev. Samuel Porter.

Presbytery of Ohio—The Rev. Andrew Gwynn, and Rev. George Scott.

Presbytery of Erie—The Rev. John McPherrin, and Rev. William Wick.

Presbytery of Orange—The Rev. John Matthews.

Presbytery of Union—The Rev. Samuel Carrick.

The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Goodrich and Calvin Chapin, appeared in the house, and exhibited certificates of their appointment as delegates to this Assembly, from the General Association of Connecticut.

The certificates being read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Miller was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart, Temporary Clerk.

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Smith, and the Rev. Joseph Clark, appeared in the house as commissioners from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and stated that some embarrassments occurring at the time of their setting out for this city, they had neglected to bring their commissions. Several members of that Presbytery, who are also members of this Assembly, certified, that Dr. Smith and Mr. Clark were duly chosen and commissioned to attend as members of this Assembly.

A motion was then made and seconded, that Dr. Smith and Mr. Clark be admitted to their seats in this Assembly, and determined in the affirmative.

The Rev. Dr. Muir, the Rev. Messrs. Samuel McMasters, Samuel Goodrich, Gershom Williams, George S. Woodhull, and James Powers; with Messrs. Robert Ogden, John Bingham, and David Bishop, elders, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

By order, the minutes of the last General Assembly were read.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 16*th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

A motion was made and seconded, that this Assembly hold only one session each day; after some debate, the question was taken and determined in the negative.

A letter from the Rev. Joshua L. Wilson of the Presbytery of Transylvania, addressed to the Stated Clerk, was laid before the Assembly and read. This letter contains an extract from the minutes of that Presbytery, by which it appeared that the Presbytery of Transylvania have approved all the amendments to the Constitution, proposed by the Assembly of the year 1804.

The delegates from the last General Assembly, to the General Association of Connecticut, reported,

"That they fulfilled the duties of their appointment, and attended diligently all the sessions of the reverend body to which they were delegated; that agreeably to the direction of the General Assembly, they laid before the Association the papers relative to Mr. Aaron C. Collins, and requested their concurrence in the resolution of the Assembly relative to that man. After the examination of these papers, the Association readily concurred in the Assembly's resolution, and gave it as their decided opinion, that as he had treated the sentence of deposition by the Presbytery of New York with contempt, in partially exercising the functions of the gospel ministry when deposed from his office, it would be improper to restore him till he gave better evidence of his penitence, and likewise manifested sorrow for disregarding the authority of the Presbytery.

That as the extracts of the Assembly's minutes, ordered to be conveyed to the Association, were not printed soon enough for the purpose, they thought proper to communicate to the Association the Assembly's order on the subject, and requested them to direct to whom your commissioners, on their return, should send them; and measures were taken to convey the said extracts to the gentlemen appointed to receive and distribute them.

The Association being informed that much evil was done among distant churches, by men deposed from the gospel ministry, or not in good standing with their body, determined that to prevent such irregular conduct in future, every Association which may depose or suspend from the ministry any member, ought when necessary, to send for publication to the editors of the Connecticut Magazine, a certificate that such person is not in good standing with their body, without assigning the reasons of his suspension or deposition. As the Association expressed a wish that the General Assembly would adopt similar measures to prevent imposture, the delegates beg leave to suggest, whether it would not contribute to the welfare of the Presbyterian church, if the Presbyteries were directed in similar cases to avail themselves of the aid of the Assembly's Magazine, in communicating requisite information with regard to ministers not in good standing with them; that the delegates were much pleased with the intelligent and expeditious manner in which the

Association transacted their business, and with the harmony, unanimity, and brotherly love which prevailed in their deliberations; that with gratitude they must express the sense they have, of the cordial and friendly reception which they experienced, and the pleasing hospitality and marked attentions with which they were treated, while waiting on that reverend body.

That the delegates received from the Association a sealed letter to the General Assembly, which they herewith lay on the table.

That next General Association will meet in Weathersfield, in the house of the Rev. Mr. Marsh, on the third Tuesday in June next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

That the delegates cannot conclude their report, without noticing an omission in the printed extracts of their appointment. Had these extracts been conveyed to the Association while sitting, this omission would have placed the delegates in a very delicate situation; for they produced as their commission, an extract from the Assembly's minutes, which does not appear in the printed copy. That they mention this, that an omission so disagreeable may not occur in future."

The letter referred to in the above report, was read, ordered to be recorded, and is as follows:

"The General Association of Connecticut, having taken into consideration the case of Mr. Aaron C. Collins, who has been deposed from the office of the gospel ministry, on account of an aggravated sin, by which he has brought scandal on himself and the ministry, and having attended to documents and vouchers presented by the delegates from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, were happy to hear the profession of penitence made by Mr. Collins, and the testimony by which it was accompanied to prove it sincere.

But as it appeared that he had only partially submitted to the sentence of deposition, and continued during part of the time he lay under censure to exercise the functions of a gospel minister, and that he had made no retractions for such disorderly conduct, therefore they agree with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, that under existing circumstances, it would not be conducive to the interests of religion for the Presbytery of New York to restore Mr. Collins to the office of the gospel ministry.

Extracts from the doings of the General Association, at their annual session in Guildford, Connecticut, June 18th, 1805.

CALVIN CHAPIN, } *Scribes of*
SAMUEL GOODRICH, } *Association.*"

The Rev. Gershom Williams, appointed by last Assembly as a delegate to the Convention of Congregational Ministers of the State of Vermont, exhibited his report, which was read, and is as follows, viz:

Your delegate reports, that agreeably to appointment, he attended during the whole of their sessions, which were held at Pittsford; that he was received and treated in a manner which discovered high respect for the General Assembly; that no very important business, except the common concerns of their church, came before them; that very agreeable accounts were received of the revival of religion in various parts of the State; that the churches in that quarter appear to be dwelling together in harmony; and that within the term of three years past, a very great change, favourable to the cause of religion, has taken place; that it has been a time of refreshing, in which the visible church has been greatly increased; that their former attachment to independent government has been considerably diminished, and that they have come into more regular order, and are combining their counsels in exercising the discipline of the church; that they appear cordially desirous that the intercourse now begun between them and the General Assembly may be continued; that they appointed the Rev. John B. Preston as a delegate to the

next General Assembly, and that the next General Convention will meet at Battleborough, on the first Tuesday of September next, at 4 o'clock, P. M.
G. WILLIAMS."

Mr. Williams laid on the table a communication from the Convention, which was read, ordered to be recorded, and is as follows :

"At a meeting of the General Convention of the State of Vermont, in Pittsford, the first Tuesday of September, 1805, thanks were voted to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, for their attention in sending a delegate to our body, and for the present of a number of Extracts from their Minutes. Attest, JAMES W. WOODWARD, *Scribe*."

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Gershom Williams, Woodhull, and Freeman, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany. That Messrs. Carnahan, Janeway, and Fairchild, be a committee to review the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey. That Messrs. Blatchford, Condict, and Snowden, be a Committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia ; and that Messrs. Arthur, Martin, and McIlvaine, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh. The Synods of Kentucky, of Virginia, and of the Carolinas, failed to send forward their records for examination.

The Assembly called for the reports of the Synods, and the duplicate reports of the Presbyteries. Reports were received from all the Synods except the Synod of Kentucky.

It being proposed that the reports received be referred to a committee agreeably to the rule in that case made, and by the Assembly of 1804; on motion, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That the rule prescribing a reference of these reports to a committee be rescinded.

The reports were then read, and ordered to be filed among the papers of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly, on Monday morning next, will proceed to a free conversation on the general state of religion within the bounds of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly, and such persons as may choose to join with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church, in special prayer and other religious exercises; and that Dr. Green, Dr. Nott, and Mr. Latta be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate the persons who shall lead in the exercises.

Ordered, That the commissioners from each Presbytery to this Assembly, report at next session, whether the Presbyteries to which they severally belong have recommended any missionaries to the Assembly, or to the Committee of Missions ; and if so, what are the numbers and names of said Missionaries.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to inquire whether it be not expedient, to propose an alteration in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, which now requires that the meetings of the General Assembly be annual; and to inquire whether it may not be expedient, in order to promote the greater union of the churches, to establish two or more General Synods, each embracing several subordinate Synods, whose meetings shall be annual, while those of the General Assembly shall be held at more distant periods.

Dr. McWhorter, Dr. Smith, Dr. Muir, Dr. Green, Dr. Nott, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Carnahan, Mr. Hood, Mr. Grier, Mr. Cathcart, Mr. Powers, Mr. Porter, Mr. Gwynn, Mr. Carrick, and Mr. Matthews, were appointed a committee for the purpose expressed in the foregoing resolution.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Dr. Nott, Mr. Clark, Mr. Woodhull, Mr. Grant, and Mr. Janeway, be a committee to prepare precise forms of all the reports required to be made by the inferior to the superior judicatories of the church, agreeably to the existing rules of the General Assembly, with such additions (if any) as shall appear to be expedient; and that they report as soon as may be convenient.

The Assembly, considering that their members are generally appointed on one or more committees, and should have time to prepare business for the Assembly; considering that some members are obliged to attend this afternoon on other business intimately connected with the interests of the church,

*Resolved*, That it is expedient to adjourn this Assembly till to-morrow morning.

Accordingly they adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

*May* 17*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Isaac VanDoren, of the Presbytery of Hudson, appeared in the house as a commissioner from that Presbytery to this Assembly. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member.

The Rev. Dr. Smith, who had been received as a member of this Assembly on oral testimony, as herein before mentioned, exhibited this morning his commission, which was read and found to be regular.

The committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of proposing an alteration of the Constitution, so as to render the meetings of the General Assembly less frequent, &c., reported,

That after the maturest consideration, and deriving all the information in their power from different members of this Assembly, relative to the convenience and the wishes of their brethren in the southern and western portions of the church, for whose accommodation chiefly the contemplated change was designed, the committee deem it inexpedient at present to propose to the the churches any change in the Constitution.

The committee, however, recommended to the Assembly to take the most effectual measures in their power to provide proper funds for defraying at least part of the expenses of the commissioners, who may attend from the remoter parts of the church.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures reported in part. The report being read, the Assembly

Ordered, That it be laid on the table.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That whereas it is a fundamental principle of the government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church, that every minister of the gospel belonging to it, be subject at all times to his brethren in the Lord; and accountable to them for the orthodoxy of his principles, and for his moral, religious, and orderly deportment; it is therefore

Ordered, That every Presbytery under the care of this Assembly, whenever they dismiss a member, be careful particularly to specify with what Presbytery, Association, or Classis, or other religious body, he is to be associated after his dismission, (to which some of the Presbyteries do not appear to have been sufficiently attentive,) and that every member so dismissed be in all cases considered as amenable to the Presbytery which has dismissed him, till he shall become connected with the ecclesiastical body which he shall have been directed to join.

A motion was made and seconded, that the Assembly adopt the following resolution, viz:

Whereas, this Assembly, copying the example of former Assemblies, have admitted persons as members without commissions, contrary to the express directions of the Constitution in this case made and provided, and contrary to the declaration of the General Assembly of 1789, upon the first instance of admitting a member without a commission, "that the practice should not be drawn into precedent after the publication of the Constitution of this Church;" although such admission may not have been attended with any injurious consequences, yet as it may in future be applied to unconstitutional purposes, therefore,

*Resolved*, That there be in future a specific compliance with the second and third sections of the twenty-second chapter of the Form of Government of this Church.

After several amendments of the above resolution had been proposed and rejected, the following resolution was proposed, viz:

*Resolved*, That in admitting members to the General Assembly in time to come, the Assembly shall observe and require a strict conformity to the second and third sections of the twenty-second chapter of the Constitution.

The question, on agreeing to this resolution, being put, was determined in the negative.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the Assembly express on their records the reason of this negative vote; namely, that they consider the Constitution in the articles referred to, as already sufficiently explicit and authoritative, without any declaration of their import by this Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia reported, and expressed their great satisfaction in the regularity with which the business of the Synod appeared to have been conducted, and the accuracy with which the records have been kept.

The records were approved by the Assembly to page 305, inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh reported, that they approved said records, except that they found, in some instances, a want of precision in sentiment and of accuracy in language.

The records were approved, with the above exception, to page 37, inclusive.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for the season of social prayer, and other religious exercises, reported. The report was accepted, and notice given to the persons appointed by the committee to lead in the exercises.

The resignation of Mr. Jonathan B. Smith, as a Trustee of the General Assembly, was read and accepted.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly will hold an election this year, for the purpose of choosing Trustees of the General Assembly, and that the election be the order for Wednesday next.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to devise and report a plan for establishing, under the direction and control of the General Assembly, a fund for defraying the necessary annual expenses of commissioners to the Assembly.

Dr. Green, Mr. Clark, Mr. Grant, Mr. Cathcart, and Mr. Carrick, were appointed a committee for the purpose expressed in the foregoing resolution.

A nomination was made of delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, and the Convention of the State of Vermont.

*Resolved*, That the election of delegates to the said Association and Convention respectively, be the order for next Monday morning.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 19th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Francis A. Ramsey, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of Union, appeared in the house as a commissioner to this Assembly, from that Presbytery. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Simon Kollock, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of Lewes, appeared in the house as a commissioner from that Presbytery to this Assembly. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member.

Agreeably to a nomination made on Saturday last, the Assembly proceeded to elect three persons, to serve as delegates from this Assembly, to the General Association of the State of Connecticut, to meet in Weathersfield the third Tuesday in June next. A ballot being taken, the Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, the Rev. Messrs. James F. Armstrong, and Joseph Clark, were duly chosen.

Ordered that the Permanent Clerk furnish the delegates with an attested copy of the above record, which shall serve as their commission.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a person to serve as a delegate to the next convention of the Congregational Ministers of the State of Vermont, when the Rev. Ebenezer Grant was duly chosen.

*Resolved*, That the Permanent Clerk furnish Mr. Grant with an attested copy of the above record which shall serve as his commission.

The Assembly proceeded to appoint supplies for the pulpits of the delegates, chosen as aforesaid, during the period of their expected absence, when the following appointments were made, viz :

For Mr. Armstrong's pulpit, the Rev. Andrew Hunter, to supply at Trenton, the third Sabbath of June ; and the Rev. Dr. Smith, at Trenton, the fourth Sabbath of June.

For Mr. Clark's pulpit, the Rev. Messrs. David Comfort the third Sabbath of June, and Selah S. Woodhull the fourth Sabbath in June.

For the Rev. Dr. Green's pulpit, the Rev. Messrs. Jonathan Freeman the third Sabbath of June, John Clark the fifth Sabbath of June, and James Boyd the fourth Sabbath of June.

For Mr. Grant's pulpit, the Rev. Messrs. Josiah Henderson the first Sabbath in September, and John Ely the second Sabbath in September.

*Resolved*, That the delegates chosen as aforesaid, receive each, two dollars for every forty miles they shall necessarily travel, in going to and returning from the several places of their destination, and one dollar each, for every day they shall attend their duty in the Association and Convention respectively.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly

*Resolved*, To proceed to a free conversation on the general state of religion.

Dr. Muir, Mr. Chapin, Mr. Carrick, and Mr. Inglis, were appointed a committee to take notes of the information that shall be given on this subject, to digest and form the same into a connected report, and lay it before the Assembly, in order that the report, if approved by the Assembly, may be published for the information of the people.

The members of the Assembly being called in the order on the roll, gave such information on this subject, as their local situation and other circumstances enabled them to give.

Having made progress, the Assembly

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly resumed and finished the conversation on the state of religion.

Accounts on this subject were received from all the Presbyteries represented in this Assembly, and partial accounts of the state of religion in some other Presbyteries. The delegates to this Assembly from the General Association of the State of Connecticut, gave a general account of the appearance of religion in that State.

Mr. Chapin, in behalf of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, presented to the Assembly fifty copies of the Extracts from the Minutes of the last General Association.

The Assembly having received the same, and distributed them among the members,

*Resolved*, That the delegates from this Assembly to the next General Association, present the thanks of this house to that body for this mark of attention.

*Resolved*, That the delegates request the Association to accept fifty copies of the Extracts to be published by this Assembly, which shall be forwarded by the said delegates, if printed in season, otherwise sent to the order of the Association.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Grant bear, and in behalf of this Assembly, present to the next Convention of Vermont, twenty-five copies of the Extracts, which shall be printed by order of this Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. John Angus, a ruling elder in the Presbytery of New York, appeared in the house as a commissioner from that Presbytery to this Assembly. His commission being read and approved, he took his seat as a member.

The Rev. Dr. Eliphalet Nott, having been appointed by the Committee of Missions to preach the missionary sermon this year, delivered last evening, in the 2d Presbyterian Church in this city, a discourse from 1 Cor. xv. 58; "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be directed to present the thanks of this Assembly to Dr. Nott for his sermon; that they request a copy for publication, and take measures for printing the same, either in the form of a pamphlet, or in one or more numbers of the Assembly's Magazine, as they shall judge the one or the other mode of publication most eligible.

An inquiry was instituted, whether the Presbyteries which have received religious books for distribution, have reported on this subject to the Committee of Missions agreeably to the order of last Assembly.

It appeared that several of the Presbyteries have reported on this subject, and that some others have neglected their duty in this respect.

*Resolved*, That all the Presbyteries which receive religious books for distribution, be careful to report to the Committee of Missions, from year to year, the books received, the disposition made, the effect produced, and the books (if any) remaining on hand.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, that they had discovered nothing in the proceedings of the Synod contrary to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, or the orders of the General Assembly; that the Committee, however, felt themselves under the necessity of reporting, that they had discovered in the records numerous instances of bad spelling, and carelessness in transcribing, which ought not to appear in records of so much consequence.

The report was approved by the Assembly and ordered to be inserted in the records of the Synod.

The last Assembly having ordered the Presbyteries under their care to take measures for promoting the Assembly's Magazine, the Presbyteries were called upon to report how far they have complied with this order.

It appeared, in consequence, that some of the Presbyteries have given a degree of attention to this subject, and that others have not.

The Committee of Missions appeared before the Assembly and reported in part. In this report the committee gave a detailed and very pleasing account of the progress and success of the missionary business under their care during the past year.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Matthews, Mr. Blatchford, Mr. Carrick, Mr. Woodhull, and Mr. Janeway, be a committee to take this report into consideration, and present to this Assembly such articles in the same, as may in their opinion require the special attention and agency of the General Assembly.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. John B. Preston appeared in the house as a delegate to this Assembly, from the Convention of the Congregational Ministers of the State of Vermont. The certificate of his appointment having been read and approved, he took his seat as a member.

The committee appointed to review the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and submitted the following resolution, which was adopted by the Assembly, and ordered to be inserted in the records of the Synod, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Assembly approve the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, to page 192 inclusive, a few inaccuracies excepted.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Dr. Smith having informed the house on Saturday last, that he would be under the necessity of withdrawing from the Assembly at the conclusion of the business of the day, and that he expected the Rev. Henry Kollock, the alternate mentioned in his commission, to take his place on Monday morning following,

Mr. Kollock this morning appeared in the house, and took his seat as a member.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Carrick, Mr. Blatchford, and Mr. Scott, be a committee to confer with the Committee of Missions, and report to this Assembly any alteration in the constitution of that committee, which may seem expedient.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Messrs. Joshua Williams, McGinley, and Simon Kollock, be a committee to examine the Synodical reports, and the duplicate Presbyterial reports exhibited to this Assembly, and report how far the Synods and Presbyteries have complied with the injunction of last Assembly, requiring them to report the number of communicants in each church, and the number of persons baptized in the course of the last year.

The last Assembly having required the Presbyteries under their care to instruct their commissioners to this Assembly on the subject of an overture respecting the education of pious youth for the gospel ministry, &c., the Assembly called on their members to report the measures taken by the Presbyteries which they represent on this subject.

The Assembly, finding that there was a general coincidence of sentiment on this subject,

*Resolved*, That the Moderator, Dr. Green, Dr. Nott, Mr. Arthur, and Mr. Carrick, be a committee to take this subject into consideration ; to draught and lay before the house a minute proper to be adopted and published by the Assembly, and calculated to carry the design into complete effect.

The committee appointed to prescribe precise forms of the reports required to be made by the inferior to the superior judicatories of the church, reported. The report being read and considered was recommitted, with instructions to the committee, to supply certain deficiencies in the forms proposed.

The committee appointed to digest the information received by the Assembly, respecting the general state of religion, and to form the same into a connected report, proper to be published for the information of the people, exhibited their report, which was read.

The Assembly having considered this report in part, and made some amendments therein, adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the general state of religion. Having read the same by paragraphs, and made some amendments therein, they adopted it as follows:

"The Assembly have heard with much pleasure, accounts from the east and west, the north and south, proclaiming the triumphs of the Redeemer, in the extension and prosperity of his kingdom in our country.

The Assembly have received an impression of the most pleasing kind, from the intelligence that there is, in almost every quarter, a general, and in some parts of our church, an increased attention to the public worship of God. That there exists a spirit of inquiry in regard to religious truth, and a more general conviction that the power of godliness is necessary to stamp value on its form. Associations for prayer and reading the Holy Scriptures, have, it appears, been the means frequently blessed by God, to preserve the very existence of religion in places destitute of the preaching of the gospel, and the full administration of its ordinances. Such associations have happily prepared the people for the labours of the pious missionary, who thus came upon ground, as it were, already broken up, and profitably scattered the good seed of the word.

The Assembly have heard with great satisfaction, that the catechizing of children and others, has, in certain parts of our church, been practised with more than ordinary care, and with that desirable success which may ever be expected to follow a suitable regard to this most important duty.

With heartfelt pleasure the Assembly bear testimony to the charitable exertions made by some of their churches, for the relief of the poor and for the maintenance of the holy ministry. They rejoice to find that the ordinances of the gospel are, in general, attended with punctuality and earnestness. They regret however, that in some particulars, they are compelled to use the language of reprehension. It is with pain they observe it to be the practice of too many, in some of their churches, to attend divine service only on one part of the day, to the neglect or contempt of the remaining part. Against this practice, so injurious to the spiritual interests of their people, so entirely inconsistent with the Christian character and privileges, they think it no more than their duty, solemnly to protest. And they do most affectionately beseech all who are conscious of delinquency in this respect no longer to withhold from God any portion of that time which he hath specially consecrated to his own service.

We live at a time when it becomes a duty peculiarly incumbent, to 'contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.' It will however be remembered, that the sacred cause of truth can never be promoted by angry controversy or railing accusation. It is therefore recommended to the churches to vindicate the truth, not only by sound and temperate discussion, but also and especially by the manifestation of its sanctifying and transforming power over the life and conversation; and by evincing that 'the like mind is in us which was in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

It should ever be recollected, that error in doctrine has a native tendency to produce immorality in practice; and therefore, that we should not be carried about by every wind of doctrine. Let us prove all things, and hold fast that which is good. This caution, it is hoped, will be received with attention and solemnity, inasmuch as the church has been of late invaded by errors which strike at the very foundation of our faith and hope; such as the denial of the Godhead and atonement of the blessed Redeemer, the subjection of Holy Scripture to the most extravagant impulses of the heart of man. These, and other errors of a dangerous nature, have been industriously, and, alas! that the Assembly should be constrained to add, in some portions of our country, too successfully disseminated.

It is believed that in the revivals of late years, many have been added to the church of such as shall be saved. Many who, steadfast in the Christian life, seek to 'adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour in all things.' For this, let the Giver of every good and perfect gift be praised. These happy subjects of divine grace are exhorted, to 'hold fast that which they have received, that no man take their crown;' to 'be faithful unto death, that they may obtain a crown of life.'

But as it has often occurred, in former periods of the church, so there is reason to believe it has happened with respect to these effusions of the Spirit's gracious influences. Transformed into an angel of light, the enemy of souls hath endeavoured to mar the glorious display of divine operations, by inciting to the most absurd and extravagant outrages upon Christian sobriety and decorum.

The Assembly beseech all their people to bear in mind, that if they allow themselves to abandon the unerring guidance of God's written word, they will inevitably become the prey of ignorance, superstition, and fanaticism. 'Bodily exercise profiteth little.' The mind sown with the seed of the word; the soul renewed by the Holy Spirit; these profit! These entitle a man to the character of being truly religious; and whatsoever has not a tendency to cherish and promote true religion, is inconstant as the wind, and light as the chaff it scatters.

The Assembly are happy to add, that their observations on the prosperity of the church, and the favourable position of religious affairs generally, were not meant to be confined to the Presbyteries under their care. They comprehended also the state of things within the bounds of the General Association of Connecticut, and among the Congregational churches in the State of Vermont, where the interests of Christ's kingdom appear to prosper.

On the whole, they commend their beloved people to the grace of God, praying the great Head of the Church to vouchsafe to them yet farther days of refreshing from his presence. Exalted Redeemer, 'pour water on the thirsty; floods of water upon the dry ground; thy Spirit on our seed, and thy blessing on our offspring; that they may grow up as grass, and as willows by the water courses.' Amen."

*Resolved*, That the order of the day respecting the election of Trustees, be postponed till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The meeting for social prayer and other religious exercises was duly attended last evening, in this church, by the members of the Assembly and a large concourse of people.

A motion was made and seconded, that the Assembly reconsider the report of the committee on the general state of religion, in order to introduce the following amendment, viz: Strike out the words "errors such as these," and insert in their place the words "these errors and others of a dangerous nature."

The question to agree to the motion being taken, was unanimously determined in the affirmative. On motion, it was then

*Resolved*, That said amendment be made, and the report was amended accordingly.

As the Presbyteries, which pay the collection of their churches into the funds of the General Assembly, have been required to make annual and separate reports of these collections to the General Assembly; the said Presbyteries were called upon to make their reports on this subject.

Reports were received from the Presbyteries of Oneida, Columbia, Hudson, New York, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, and Lewes. The other Presbyteries failed to make reports on this subject.

*Resolved*, That the committee appointed to print the Extracts of this Assembly, cause to be printed, in an appendix, a detailed account of the collections paid for the last year into the missionary fund, and that in forming this account the committee avail themselves, as well of the Treasurer's books, as of the reports made to this house.

The report of the delegates from the last General Assembly to the last General Association of Connecticut was again read, when it was

*Resolved*, That Mr. Clark, Mr. Chapin, Mr. Henry Kollock, Mr. Arthur, and Mr. Latta, be a committee to take this report into consideration, and report to the house the measures (if any) proper to be taken by the Assembly, in consequence of the recommendations contained in the report.

A letter to the General Assembly from the Synod of the Carolinas was read, and committed to Mr. Matthews, Mr. Wick, and Mr. Grant, who were directed to consider and report thereon, to this Assembly, as soon as may be convenient.

A letter addressed to this Assembly by the Presbytery of Concord, was read, and committed to Dr. Muir, Dr. Nott, and Mr. Gershom Williams, who were instructed to take this letter into consideration, and draught an answer to the same, or otherwise to report to this Assembly, as the case may require.

Mr. Woodhull, in behalf of the committee appointed by last Assembly to dispose of the interest of certain moneys in the funds of the College of New

Jersey, appropriated to the education of poor and pious youth, reported, that the committee met, and executed the business assigned them.

*Resolved*, That the same committee be continued, and directed to meet with the Trustees of the College, on the last Wednesday of September next, and dispose of the interest that shall have accrued on the said moneys, and make report to the next General Assembly.

An extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Ohio, accompanied by a letter from the Rev. Boyd Mercer, was brought in and read. By these it appeared, that the Presbytery, in consequence of certain business before them, had referred to the General Assembly, for decision, the following questions, viz:

1. Did the General Assembly, in the recommendation and allowance of those Psalms and Hymns which they have recommended and allowed to be sung in the churches, intend that the churches should be confined to them alone; and is it irregular and censurable to use others in public or family worship?

2. May a man hold the office of an associate judge, and the office of the gospel ministry at the same time; or is it expedient for a Presbytery to continue a person in the office of the gospel ministry in such circumstances?

After some discussion the Assembly resolved,

1. That Messrs. Gwin, Woodhull, and Ogden, be a committee to take the first of these questions into consideration, and report thereon to this Assembly as soon as may be convenient.

2. That Messrs. McPherrin, Inglis, and Ogden, be a committee to take the latter of the said questions into consideration, and report to the house to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, that the office of Stated Clerk of the Assembly be, for the present, discontinued, and that the duties heretofore performed by that officer be devolved on the Permanent Clerk.

*Resolved*, That all the books and papers belonging to the Assembly which have formerly been intrusted to the Stated Clerk, be committed to the care of the Permanent Clerk; that he cause the current minutes of the Assembly from year to year to be fairly transcribed, and annually exhibit his account for transcribing and other expenses incurred by him as Clerk, to the Trustees of the Assembly, who are hereby authorized to liquidate the same, and grant warrants for the amount.

The order of this morning for the election of Trustees of the Assembly, was farther postponed till to-morrow.

The committee to whom was referred the Synodical reports, and the duplicate reports of Presbyteries, in order to ascertain how far they conform to the orders of last Assembly, respecting a detail of communicants and baptisms, exhibited their report.

The report having been read and considered, was approved, and is as follows, viz:

1. Of the Presbyteries composing the Synod of Albany, those of Oneida and Albany only have reported the number of communicants, baptisms, &c., and these reports are incomplete.

2. The Synod of New York and New Jersey made no report of communicants, baptisms, &c., except from the Presbytery of Hudson, and this report is not complete.

3. The Synod of Philadelphia made no report of communicants, baptisms, &c., except from the Presbyteries of Philadelphia and Carlisle, and these reports are incomplete.

4. Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, the Presbytery of Ohio alone made report of communicants, baptisms, &c., and the report is incomplete.

5. Of the Synod of Virginia, the Presbytery of Lexington alone made report of communicants, baptisms, &c., and this report is incomplete.

The committee to whom was referred the communication from the Presbytery of Ohio, respecting Psalmody, reported. The report having been read and considered, was approved, and is as follows, viz:

Your committee are of opinion, that the General Assembly of the year 1802, in their resolution on this subject, did not intend that the churches under their care should use no other Psalms and Hymns, than those specified in the resolution. It is further the opinion of your committee that when any families or congregations in their religious worship, make use of hymns containing erroneous doctrine or trivial matter, it becomes the duty of church Sessions and Presbyteries to inquire into the matter, and act as the case may require.

On motion, *Resolved*, That when this Assembly adjourn, they will adjourn till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Messrs. Armstrong, Bishop, and Belville, obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Mr. Mann obtained leave of absence during the residue of this week.

Mr. Arthur resigned his seat in the Assembly in favour of the Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, the alternate named in his commission; Mr. Snowden being present, took his seat as a member.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 23d, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The committee to whom was referred "the report of the delegates to the last General Association of Connecticut," reported.

The report having been read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly, when they shall depose any of their members from the exercise of the ministerial office, and when any person so deposed shall, without having been regularly restored, assume the ministerial character, or attempt to exercise any of the ministerial functions; that in such case, with a view to prevent such deposed person from imposing himself on the churches, Presbyteries be careful to have his name published in the Assembly's Magazine, as deposed from the ministry, that all the churches may be enabled to guard themselves against such dangerous impositions.

The committee to whom was referred the report of the Committee of Missions, exhibited their report.

The Assembly having heard and considered the report, and made sundry amendments, adopted the following resolutions, viz:

*Resolved*, 1. That as reasons unknown to the missionaries may often influence the Committee of Missions in designating their routes, the missionaries be directed to pay a strict regard to their instructions, and not to deviate from their prescribed course, except where insurmountable obstacles occur.

2. That a committee be appointed to take into consideration Mr. Rice's plan for catechetical instruction, together with the letter from the Presbytery of West Lexington on that subject, and report to this Assembly.

3. That the same committee who brought forward the report on which these resolutions are founded, be a committee for the purpose expressed in the last preceding resolution.

4. That the Assembly approve the conduct of the Committee of Missions

in writing to the Executive of the Union, on the subject mentioned in their report.

5. That the Assembly highly approve the zeal of the Synod of Pittsburgh, displayed in undertaking, at so considerable expense, a mission among the Wyandot Indians; but the Assembly cannot, for the present year, take under their immediate care the said mission, nor the missionary concerns generally within the bounds of the Synod of Pittsburgh, agreeably to a request which appears on the records of that Synod; but willing to favour so valuable an object, they hereby direct and authorize the Trustees of the General Assembly to pay, for the present year, two hundred dollars to the Board of Trust of the Synod of Pittsburgh, for the support of the Indian mission under their care; and if it shall appear consistent with the state of the funds, after the missionary arrangements generally for the present year shall have been made, the Committee of Missions and Trustees of the Assembly are authorized and directed to apply one hundred dollars more, toward promoting the important design herein before mentioned.

6. That the Trustees of the General Assembly be directed to grant warrants to the following persons respectively, or their attorneys, for the payment of the sums of money annexed to their several names, viz: Rev. John Close, the balance due to him as a missionary, $69 36; Rev. John Lysle, do. $56 67; Rev. David Rice, do. $30 92; Mr. James Hoge, do. $69 32; Mr. John Chavis, do. $166; Rev. James Mitchell, do. $28 88; Rev. Thomas Williamson, do. $100. Total $521 15.

7. The Committee of Missions having stated, that, in pursuance of authority for the purpose given them by the General Assembly, they had directed the Trustees to grant warrants for the payment to several persons, of sundry sums of money amounting to $2503 82,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly approve of this application of a part of their funds.

8. That the Assembly appropriate, annually, when the funds will admit of it, the sum of one hundred dollars, for the purchase of religious books, to be distributed in those parts of our Church which may most need them.

9. The Committee of Missions having reported, that notwithstanding the resolutions of last Assembly for the support of their Magazine, no considerable aid had been received; and the Assembly knowing that this Magazine, if well conducted and extensively circulated, will both edify the readers, and materially increase the missionary fund,

*Resolved*, That the resolutions of the last Assembly, on this subject, be renewed in the following words:

*Resolved*, That it be recommended, and it is hereby earnestly recommended, to the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly, to take measures for promoting subscriptions for the Assembly's Magazine. And as the continued existence of this Magazine, intended not only to entertain and instruct, but also to aid the missionary fund, will depend on a constant supply of suitable material for the work,

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries enjoin it on their members, to use their endeavours to procure and forward to the printer, Mr. William P. Farrand, suitable communications for this Magazine, especially of the original kind.

10. The Assembly, desirous to do all in their power to support the Magazine, and give to it that interest and character which it ought to possess:

*Resolved*, That a committee be annually appointed, to furnish original materials for the Magazine, and forward them, from time to time, to the editor, Mr. William P. Farrand.

11. That the committee for the following year consist of the Rev. Drs. Smith, Davidson, King, Miller, Nott, Blair, Muir, and Milledoler; Messrs.

Coe, Carnahan, Kollock, Griffin, Alexander, Baxter, Finley, John E. Latta, Lewis, Romeyn, Blatchford, Inglis, George S. Woodhull, Arthur, Freeman, Richards, Porter, and Samuel F. Snowden.

12. That the names of the foregoing persons be printed on the cover of each number of the Magazine, and that the names of those members of the Committee of Missions, who assist the editor in selecting, monthly, the articles which are to be inserted in the Magazine, be also published.

13. That the Committee of Missions be directed to procure a reduction of the present price of the Magazine, if practicable.

14. That while the Assembly highly approve of every zealous and prudent exertion to propagate the gospel among the Indian nations, and judge that the Rev. Gideon Blackburn has been animated by a commendable zeal in establishing a second Indian school in the State of Tennessee, which the Assembly would earnestly recommend to the patronage of charitable and liberal individuals; yet the Assembly are at present unable to pledge their funds, in any degree, for the support of said school.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to elect a person to serve as a Trustee of the General Assembly, in the room of Jonathan B. Smith, Esq., resigned.

A ballot having been taken, Mr. Alexander Fullerton, of the city of Philadelphia, was duly chosen.

*Resolved,* That the Assembly will make no farther change in the Board of Trustees for the present year.

The following persons were chosen and appointed to serve as a standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Philadelphia and the vicinity—Dr. Blair, Dr. Green, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Janeway, Mr. Potts, Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Hazard, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Haslet, and Mr. Robert Smith.

Synod of Albany—The Rev. Jonas Coe.
Synod of New York and New Jersey—The Rev. Edward D. Griffin.
Synod of Philadelphia—The Rev. Robert Cathcart.
Synod of Pittsburgh—The Rev. James Hughs.
Synod of Virginia—The Rev. George Baxter.
Synod of Kentucky—The Rev. James Blythe; and
Synod of the Carolinas—The Rev. William C. Davis.

The following letter having been read before this Assembly, they agreed to recommend, and do hereby recommend it to the attention of all their Presbyteries, and the youth concerned.

"The College of New Jersey was originally founded with a particular view to promote the interests of religion, as well as learning, by training up men of piety and talents for the ministry of the gospel. The Trustees of the institution have ever been attentive to this great object, and have made the most generous provision for the support of theological students. As the encouragements here offered to such students are but little known, the faculty take the liberty of mentioning them to you, and requesting you to co-operate with them in carrying into effect the benevolent designs of the Trustees, by sending hither any young men with whom you are acquainted, who may need the advantages here to be enjoyed.

All persons who are actually engaged in the study of Theology, at whatever institution they may have received the preliminary parts of their education, may, on producing proper testimonials of their character, pursue their farther studies here, at the moderate charge of one dollar a week for board, and enjoy the assistance of the President and Professor of Theology, without any fee for instruction. This Professor gives lectures to the theological students twice in the week; and at each succeeding meeting, examines them strictly on the subject of the preceding lecture. His course of lectures embraces Divinity, Ecclesiastical History, Church Government, Christian and Jewish Antiquities, and the duties of the pastoral office. He instructs those who desire it in the Hebrew language, so useful and almost indispensable to a good divine.

At every meeting one or more of his pupils submits to his criticism and remarks, an essay or sermon on a subject previously assigned. The Professor, together with the President of the College, holds a Theological Society once in the week, for the discussion of important questions, immediately relative to the science of divinity.

The emulation and encouragement communicated by a variety of fellow students, the oppportunity of cultivating any branch of science, and an access at all times to a large and well selected Theological Library, are other advantages of no small consequence. In behalf of the Faculty,

Samuel S. Smith, *President.*"

The committee to whom was referred the letter from the Synod of the Carolinas reported. The report having been read and considered, was adopted, and is as follows:

Your committee find that this letter contains a remonstrance against receiving into union with this Assembly a body of men styling themselves the Presbytery of Charleston; that this subject was regularly before the Assembly of the year 1800; that certain resolutions affecting the case were then adopted, to which that body of men have not conformed, on their part; and that no application has been made by them to this Assembly. Your committee therefore submit the following resolution, viz:

*Resolved*, That this subject be dismissed.

The committee to whom was referred the letter of Mr. Rice, containing a plan for catechetical instruction, and the letter from the Presbytery of West Lexington on the same subject, reported,

That the Assembly ought not to sanction the plan, as it would be dangerous to the church to employ illiterate men as exhorters, or catechetical instructors; and that the part of the communication which respects the appointment of a stated missionary, should be referred to the Committee of Missions.

The Assembly, having read and duly considered this report,

*Resolved*, That it be, and it hereby is adopted.

The committee to whom were referred the communication from the Presbytery of Ohio, respecting the Rev. Boyd Mercer, and his letter to the Moderator of the Assembly, exhibited their report.

The report having been read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

With respect to the abstract question, whether the tenure of a civil office be, or be not incompatible with that of the holy ministry, your committee are of opinion, that there is nothing in the Holy Scriptures, or in the Constitution, acts, or proceedings of the Presbyterian Church in these United States, expressly prohibitory of such union of offices.

With respect to the particular case referred to their consideration, as Mr. Mercer in his letter expressly asserts, that it is not his intention to decline the office of the holy ministry, and that he was led to devote himself for the present to the functions of an associate judge, by a state of health so infirm as to interrupt the regular discharge of his public duties as a minister of religion; your committee are of opinion, that the Presbytery of Ohio ought not to censure him, unless there be some circumstances in the case unknown to the Assembly.

That none however may so far misconstrue these sentiments, as to persuade themselves that they countenance a covetous, ambitious spirit, your committee farther beg leave to suggest the propriety of cautioning your clergy against worldly mindedness; of exhorting them not to aspire after places of emolument or civil distinction; of reminding them that the cure of souls is their peculiar business, and that they who serve at the altar ought, as far as possible, to avoid temporal avocations.

The committee to whom was referred the letter to this Assembly from the Presbytery of Concord, reported, and submitted the following draught of an answer to said letter, viz:

"The General Assembly send to the Presbytery of Concord, wishing grace, mercy, and peace.

The letter from the Presbytery to this Assembly, has been received and deliberately considered.

The Assembly answer to the request of the Presbytery to explain a minute of the Assembly of 1804, that this Assembly deem it presuming to explain the meaning of a former Assembly, otherwise than their own language expresses, nor is the explanation necessary. This Assembly's sentiments on the subject, are expressly given in the detailed account of the result of the free conversation on the present state of religion, which will appear in the printed extracts of this year, to which the Assembly would refer the Presbytery of Concord.

By adverting to the sentiments therein expressed, the Presbytery will perceive that the Assembly devoutly rejoice in the late glorious revival; that far from questioning the operation of the Holy Spirit in many who have been the subjects of unusual bodily affections, they merely wish to caution their brethren against giving countenance and encouragement to those extravagant and indecent outrages against Christian decorum, which tend to interrupt the devotion of worshipping assemblies, and to mar that beautiful order which should always be maintained in the house of God. Surely God is not the God of confusion, but of order; and in the genuine effusions of the most fervent piety, 'the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.'

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the throne of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory, majesty, dominion, and power, both now and for ever. Amen."

The Assembly having read and maturely considered the above draught,

*Resolved*, That it be adopted, and is hereby adopted as the answer of this Assembly to the letter of the Presbytery of Concord; that a copy thereof be signed by the Moderator, addressed and sent to the Moderator of that Presbytery, to be communicated.

The Committee of Missions exhibited a further report, in which amongst other things they recommend the missionaries proper to be employed the ensuing year, and prescribe their routes.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Inglis, Mr. Woodhull, and Mr. Grant, be a committee to take this report into consideration, and report to the house such items therein, as may, in their opinion, require the farther attention and agency of the Assembly.

Mr. Boyd requested leave to resign his seat in the Assembly, in favour of the Rev. George Potts, the alternate named in his commission; and expressed his expectation, that Mr. Potts will attend to take his place to-morrow morning.

The request was granted.

Mr. McGinley and Mr. Preston obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly were informed that Mr. James Irwin had gone home on account of bodily indisposition.

Mr. Potts, the alternate commissioner appointed to serve in the absence of Mr. Boyd, appeared in the house, and took his seat as a member.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Dr. Green, the Rev. James P. Wilson, the Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, and the Permanent Clerk, be a committee to select such parts of the records of this Assembly as they shall judge proper to be published for the information of the people and judicatories of the Church.

That the said Clerk superintend the printing of one thousand five hundred copies of the same, and cause them to be apportioned and sent to the Presbyteries, that they may be distributed among the churches.

The Assembly called upon the Synods, which manage the missionary business in a separate capacity, to report their diligence and success in this work.

A report on this subject was presented by Mr. Matthews, in behalf of the Synod of the Carolinas. From this it appeared that in the course of the year preceding the last meeting of Synod, they had two missionaries employed for about nine months each, at the Natchez, and parts adjacent; and that the reports received from the missionaries, gave great hopes of continued success in the mission to that quarter; that one other missionary had spent one month in missionary labour, in the northwestern parts of the state of North Carolina; that some other missionaries appointed by the Synod, had been prevented from fulfilling their appointments; and that the Synod have directed the Presbytery of Orange to ordain Mr. James Smylie, with a view to his returning as a missionary to the Natchez.

The Synod of Pittsburgh did not make a formal report on this subject, but a letter to the chairman of the Committee of Missions from the Board of Trust, which has the immediate direction of the missionary business in that Synod, was laid before the Assembly and read. From this it appeared that the Synod of Pittsburgh, with a commendable zeal, and flattering prospects of success, are attempting the instruction and civilization of the Wyandot Indians, residing at and about Sandusky; that the Synod sent three missionaries thither last summer, each of whom spent two months or more, in the service, and were well received by the Indians; that the Indians having expressed a strong desire to have the Gospel established in the nation, a school for the education of their children, and the arts of civil life introduced among them; the Synod, encouraged by these favourable appearances, had made the greatest efforts to follow the leadings of Divine providence in this case. They employed the Rev. Joseph Badger as a stated missionary for one year, two white men as labourers, of whom one to be eventually employed as a schoolmaster; one black man, (acquainted with their language and hopefully pious,) and his wife. They also purchased sundry live stock, household furniture, implements of husbandry, a boat for transportation, &c., all which were to be forwarded to Sandusky, about the first of April last; that measures are taking to procure from the General Government a grant of land, as an establishment for the mission, and to be cultivated for its support; that the Synod, animated with a noble zeal in this glorious cause, are extending their views to the Seneca Indians, settled on the Allegheny river; and devising means for bringing them "out of darkness into marvellous light." On the whole, the Assembly were highly gratified by the prospects opened to them by the Synod of Pittsburgh, and only regret the want of means, to realize the blessings they present.

From the Synod of Virginia, no report was received on the missionary business.

The committee to whom was referred the overture of last Assembly, for increasing the number of Gospel ministers, reported, and submitted a record, proper to be made by the Assembly on the subject.

The report, having been read and amended, was adopted as follows, viz:

The commissioners from all the Presbyteries represented in this Assembly, having been called to state the opinion entertained by their respective Presbyteries on this subject, it appeared that the overture had been seriously considered, and highly approved by most of them; that some Presbyteries had long been in the habit of using the measures contemplated in the overture, for bringing forward youth of piety and talents, as candidates for the gospel ministry; and that others had adopted and organized such measures within the last year, in consequence of the overture under consideration.

After maturely deliberating on the overture, the Assembly determined, that the part of it which relates to the selection and education of young men of piety and talents for the gospel ministry, presents a plan which they consider as well deserving their countenance and support. It is indeed an obvious and melancholy fact, that the candidates for the gospel ministry within the bounds of the Presbyterian Church, at present fall very far short of the demand which is made for their services, and that the rapid increase of vacant congregations, taken in connection with the youth who are studying for the ministry, presents a most gloomy prospect of what is likely to be the state of our church in a few years, if prompt and effectual measures be not taken to furnish a supply of ministers, much greater than the existing state of things is likely to produce. On the whole, the Assembly were deeply affected with the view which they had taken of this subject, and were extremely solicitous to adopt the most efficient measures, which circumstances will permit, to remedy the existing evil and prevent its augmentation. But as the Presbyteries, of which the Assembly have the oversight, are scattered over a wide extent of country, and their circumstances are known to be extremely various, it occurred that an absolute injunction on all the Presbyteries, immediately to enter into the execution of the plan proposed, might bear hard on some, if not be entirely incapable of execution: on the other hand, merely to recommend an attention to the plan, without attaching any responsibility to the neglect of the recommendation, appeared to the Assembly incompatible with the high importance of the subject, and with their own duty as guardians of the Church, bound especially to provide for their people a supply of the Word of Life. It was, therefore, determined to take a middle course between these extremes, so as to avoid, if possible, the inconveniences of both. With this in view it was resolved to recommend, and the Assembly do hereby most earnestly recommend to every Presbytery under their care, to use their utmost endeavours to increase, by all suitable means in their power, the number of promising candidates for the holy ministry: to press it upon the parents of pious youth, to endeavour to educate them for the Church; and on the youth themselves, to devote their talents and their lives to the sacred calling; to make vigorous exertions to raise funds to assist all the youth who may need assistance; to be careful that the youth they take on their funds give such evidence as the nature of the case admits, that they possess both talents and piety; to inspect the education of these youth, during the course of both their academical and theological studies, choosing for them such schools, seminaries, and teachers, as they may judge most proper and advantageous; so as eventually to bring them into the ministry, well furnished for their work. And the Assembly did, and do hereby order, that every Presbytery under their care, make annually a report to the Assembly, stating particularly what they have done in this concern, or why (if the case so shall be) they have done nothing in it; and that the Assembly will, when these reports are received, consider each distinctly, and decide by vote, whether the Presbyteries severally shall be considered as having discharged or neglected their duty in this important business.

On that part of the overture which suggests the propriety of addressing a pastoral letter to the people, on the subject of making a more competent worldly provision for the ministers of the gospel, the Assembly judge it not expedient to write such a letter at present.

The committee to whom were recommitted the forms of reports, required to be made by the inferior to the superior judicatories of the church, reported.

The report having been read and considered, the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the final decision on this report be postponed till the report shall be transcribed, and read again; and that Mr. Gershom Williams be added to the committee.

The committee to whom was referred the second report of the Committee of Missions, exhibited their report.

The Assembly having read and considered the report, adopted the following resolutions on the subject, viz:

*Resolved*, 1. That the Rev. Gershom Williams be a missionary for two months of the ensuing year, to be employed in destitute places in the counties of Morris and Sussex, in New Jersey, and the adjacent parts of New York.

2. That the Rev. Elias Riggs be a missionary for three months, of which six weeks to be spent in Franklin, Greensburgh, Whiteplains, and Mountpleasant, on the east side of the Hudson River, and six weeks on the west side, in Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Smith's Cove, Kingwood, and Steuben.

3. That Mr. Samuel B. Wilson, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Lexington, be a missionary for two months, to be employed in Fredericksburgh, Virginia, and parts adjacent.

4. That Mr. John Chavis be employed as a missionary for two months, to be spent among the blacks and free people of colour in Maryland, if practicable, otherwise at his discretion.

5. That the Rev. John H. Rice spend two months in missionary labours among the blacks in Charlotte county, Virginia, and parts adjacent.

6. That the Rev. Samuel Rannals, of Bourbon, and the Rev. Robert Stuart of Fayette, Kentucky, employ three months each in missionary labours within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Cumberland, Transylvania, and West Lexington.

7. That the Rev. John Lyle serve two months as a missionary, in destitute places of Madison, Bourbon, Harrison, and Scott counties, Kentucky.

8. That the Rev. James Mitchel be employed as a missionary for two months, in Montgomery and the adjacent counties in Virginia.

9. That Mr. Samuel Scott, of the Presbytery of West Lexington, be a missionary for three months, to be spent in the Indiana Territory, and especially at Vincennes.

10. That the Rev. Thomas Hughes, or (in case of his declining) some

other person whom the Presbytery of Erie may designate, employ three months in missionary service in New Connecticut.

11. That Mr. James Hoge be employed as a missionary for three months in the state of Ohio, and parts adjacent.

12. That the Presbytery of New York be authorized to employ a missionary for two months, to be spent in the northern parts of the state of Pennsylvania, and the southern parts of the state of New York, between the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers; the missionary to be commissioned by the Committee of Missions, report to them, and be paid out of the funds of the Assembly.

13. That the like privilege be extended to the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and under the same conditions; the missionary to be employed in the southern parts of the counties of Monmouth, Burlington, and Gloucester.

14. That the Rev. Asa Dunham be employed as a missionary for two months in the counties of Luzerne, Northumberland, and parts adjacent.

15. That the Rev. Gideon Blackburn be employed two months in missionary service for the Cherokee Indians, and that five hundred dollars be appropriated for the support of the Indian school instituted by him, and under the direction of the Committee of Missions.

16. That the summary of the general state of religion, reported to the Assembly from year to year, be published annually; not only in the extracts, but in a separate form, that copies may be more easily and extensively distributed.

17. That the Assembly approve the conduct of the Committee of Missions in procuring to be printed a number of copies of the Shorter Catechism, that the committee be directed to apportion and send them to the Presbyteries for gratuitous distribution.

18. That the Trustees of the General Assembly be, and they hereby are authorized and requested, to grant a warrant to the chairman of the Committee of Missions or order, for the payment of a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, being the expense of printing said Catechisms.

19. That the Assembly are satisfied with the reasons rendered by the Committee of Missions, for not fulfilling the order of last Assembly, respecting the purchase of certain books therein mentioned.

20. That the Committee of Missions be directed to use the one hundred dollars, appropriated by a former resolution of this Assembly, for the purchase of religious books, in buying such books as they shall deem most useful.

21. That the Rev. ——— be employed three months in missionary service, on the peninsula between Delaware and Chesapeake bays.

22. That the missionaries for the ensuing year receive each thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month for their service; they accounting for the sums they shall receive on their tours respectively; and that they receive, each, one month's pay in advance, if required.

The Assembly proceeded to devise means for supplying the pulpits of the missionaries aforesaid, who have pastoral charges: whereupon it was

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Geneva take measures for appointing such supplies for Mr. Chapman's pulpit, as shall appear necessary; that the Presbytery of Erie appoint supplies for Mr. Hughes' pulpit; that Mr. Condict and Mr, Williams be a committee to appoint supplies for Mr. Williams' pulpit; that Mr. Alexander, Mr. Todd, and Mr. John H. Rice, be a committee to appoint supplies for Mr. Rice's pulpit; that Mr. Blythe, Mr. Rannals, and Mr. Lyle, be a committee to appoint supplies for Mr. Lyle's pulpit; that Mr. Blythe, Mr. Rannals, and Mr. Stuart, be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpits of Mr. Rannals and Mr. Stuart, provided they have pastoral charges; and that Mr. Carrick, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Blackburn, be a committee to appoint supplies for Mr. Blackburn's pulpit, if such supplies shall be necessary.

Whereas the Rev. Jedediah Chapman has long acted as a stated missionary of the General Assembly, and is still in circumstances to render important services of a missionary kind, though he cannot specify any particular portion of his time that he can devote to that object,

*Resolved,* That the standing Committee of Missions furnish Mr. Chapman with a commission, as a missionary, without fixing the time of his service; and that at the end of the year Mr. Chapman report to the Committee of Missions the time he shall have spent as a missionary; which, after obtaining the approbation of the committee, shall insure to him the usual missionary allowance, it being understood that three months' allowance is not to be exceeded.

*Resolved,* That Mr. Chapman be authorized, with the concurrence of the Presbytery of Geneva, to employ two missionaries for two months each, to perform missionary service under his direction, which missionaries shall report to the Committee of Missions, and be paid out of the funds of the Assembly.

The committee appointed to devise means for establishing a fund for defraying the expenses of commissioners to the General Assembly, exhibited their report, which was read.

This report being under consideration, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Four o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

*Resolved,* That the committee appointed to report to the Assembly any alterations which might appear proper to be made in the constitution of the Committee of Missions, be discharged.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the report of the committee appointed to devise means for establishing a fund for defraying the expenses of commissioners to the General Assembly.

Having determined to read and consider it by paragraphs, and made progress, the Assembly

*Resolved,* That the report be recommitted; that the committee amend, and present it again on Monday morning.

Mr. Ramsey obtained leave of absence during the remainder of the sessions.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The committee to whom was recommitted the report on the subject of raising a fund for the support of commissioners, exhibited their report; having read the same by paragraphs, and made sundry amendments, the Assembly approved the same, as follows:

Your committee are of opinion, that it is practicable to establish a fund to defray the necessary expenses of all the commissioners who shall attend the General Assembly; for this purpose, they recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, viz:

1. *Resolved,* That as the General Assembly is not only the supreme judicature, but the essential bond of union of the Presbyterian Church in the

United States of America, it is equally incumbent on every part of that church, to maintain its existence and respectability, and to bear its just proportion of all the expense necessary to that end.

2. *Resolved*, That the practice which has hitherto obtained, of each Presbytery defraying the expenses of its own commissioners to the Assembly, or permitting commissioners to bear the whole, or a large part of their own expenses, is not equal or just, inasmuch as it obliges the remote Presbyteries and their commissioners to bear a burden many times greater than that which falls on those near to the place at which the General Assembly convenes, when the duty to be discharged by both is precisely the same, and ought not to be more oppressive to one than to the other; therefore,

3. *Resolved*, That a fund be constituted under the direction of the General Assembly, to which all the parts of the church shall contribute, and out of which all the commissioners to the Assembly shall be punctually paid, agreeably to an equitable estimate of the expenses necessarily incurred by each.

4. *Resolved*, That this fund shall never be blended with that which is already established, and appropriated to missionary purposes; but that the Assembly do hereby pledge themselves to keep these two funds, at all times, entirely separate and distinct; so that they shall not, on any occasion, make even a temporary draught on the one, to supply the deficiencies of the other.

5. *Resolved*, That each commissioner to the General Assembly shall receive, out of the common fund, two dollars for every forty miles which he shall necessarily travel, in coming to, and in returning from the Assembly; and if in any year the fund be not adequate to pay all the commissioners at this rate, another ratio to which the fund shall be adequate shall be assumed, agreeably to which each member shall be paid, according to the distance he shall travel and the time he shall attend the Assembly.

6. *Resolved*, That all the congregations under the care of the General Assembly, contribute pecuniary aid to the fund herein contemplated, either by raising an annual contribution, expressly and wholly for this fund, or by endeavouring to extend the contribution already ordered for the missionary fund, and then making an equitable division between the two funds.

7. *Resolved*, That in those congregations where only one contribution is made, the session of each congregation may divide said contribution, and determine what part of the sum contributed shall go to each fund respectively; but if any session shall not make and report to Presbytery a division of the contribution herein ordered, the Presbytery shall divide the contribution of such congregation, and assign to each fund the proportion thereof which they shall judge equitable.

8. *Resolved*, That every Presbytery be careful, annually, to send forward by their commissioners to the General Assembly, the sums which have been collected within the bounds of each Presbytery respectively, for the commissioners' fund, which shall be paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Assembly; and the said Trustees are hereby requested to direct their Treasurer, annually, at an early period of the sessions, to present to the Assemb'y the amount received from each Presbytery, and (as far as may be practicable) from every congregation within the same.

9. *Resolved*, That the Assembly shall annually inquire of the commissioners from each Presbytery, what has been done the year past in the bounds of the Presbytery to which the commissioners respectively belong, to carry into effect the design of the Assembly in these resolutions.

10. *Resolved*, That whereas it is manifestly inequitable that those parts of the church which will not contribute to the important object of these resolutions, should receive benefit from the contributions of others; if it shall

appear on inquiry that any Presbytery has been manifestly inattentive to the duty herein enjoined, so that the congregations generally within its bounds shall not have raised their reasonable proportion of the sum necessary to constitute and support the commissioners' fund, the commissioners from that Presbytery shall for the year in which such manifest inattention and deficiency shall appear, receive out of the commissioners' fund only the sum which they have contributed to it. At all times, however, the General Assembly will make a candid allowance for those circumstances of any Presbyteries or congregations, which ought in equity to abate the expectations of much pecuniary aid from their exertions.

11. *Resolved*, That it shall annually be the duty of the Committee of Bills and Overtures, to ascertain and report to the Assembly the sums due to the commissioners severally; and the Assembly, after approving said report, shall direct their Trustees to issue warrants in favour of each commissioner, for the sum allowed him, to be paid out of the commissioners' fund.

*Resolved*, That, if it shall happen in process of time, that the fund raised in consequence of these resolutions, shall exceed the sum necessary to secure the payment of the expenses of the commissioners, the surplus shall (at the end of every fifth year, reckoning from the first year the surplus shall occur) be paid into the missionary fund; and that in disposing of this surplus the Assembly will remit to the several Synods that manage the missionary business, separately, their proportion of such surplus, to be determined by the ratio of their respective contributions to this fund.

*Resolved*, That the above plan be transmitted to the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly, and the Presbyteries are hereby directed to report to the next Assembly any amendments they may think proper to be made therein; or to report any new plan on this subject which they may think either more convenient or more efficient; that, if possible, a plan entirely acceptable to all parts of the Church, may be perfected by the next General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That it be, and it hereby is earnestly recommended not only to all the Presbyteries, but to all the ministers under the care of the General Assembly, to endeavour to explain to their people the equity, the importance, and the necessity, of contributing to the commissioners' fund; showing them that without spirited exertions to raise money for this fund, there is imminent danger that the harmony of our Church will be destroyed, and its capacity of acting in concert with efficiency, in all its great and interesting measures for promoting the Gospel, will speedily be terminated.

*Resolved*, That the Synods and Presbyteries which have heretofore been required to bring forward contributions, in aid of the commissioners coming from the more distant parts of the country, continue their exertions for the ensuing year, and until another plan shall be finally adopted.

The Presbyteries whom this resolution respects, are those of the Synod of Albany, the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and the Synod of Philadelphia.

Adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Presbyteries which are required to make contributions for the aid of commissioners coming from the more distant parts of the country, were called upon to report their diligence and success in raising such contributions. It appeared, in consequence, that the Presbytery of New Brunswick has paid to the Treasurer of the Corporation, the sum of eighteen dollars and sixty-six cents; and that the other Presbyteries have not procured collections for this object.

*Resolved*, That the above sum be paid to Mr. Matthews towards defraying his expenses in attending this Assembly.

On motion, *Resolved*, That hereafter the Permanent Clerk shall receive for his services two dollars per day, during the sessions of the Assembly, and one dollar and fifty cents per day, while necessarily attending upon the business of the Assembly after their adjournment; and that the Temporary Clerk shall, hereafter, receive no pecuniary compensation for his services.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly grant a warrant in favour of the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler or order, for the payment of the sum of twenty dollars, for his services as Stated Clerk of the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the said Trustees issue a warrant for seventy-five dollars and twelve cents in favour of Mr. Timothy Williams, in full of a balance due to him for missionary services.

*Resolved*, That so much of the minutes of this Assembly as relates to the appointment of missionaries for the present year, be published not only in extracts, but also with the separate accounts to be printed of the general state of religion.

A communication was received from the Trustees of the General Assembly informing that they have re-elected Mr. Isaac Snowden, jr., Treasurer, and the Rev. George Potts, Secretary of the Board for the ensuing year; that agreeably to the orders of last Assembly, they have caused to be printed an edition of the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, Government, and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church, &c.; with the amendments, consisting of five thousand copies, whereof two hundred and fifty copies are bound and subject to the order of the General Assembly; and that the copy-right of the edition has been secured according to law.

Whereas, the Assembly are informed that the edition of the standards of the Presbyterian church now finishing, is correctly printed, and contains all the amendments of the Plan of Government and Discipline, ratified by the last General Assembly, together with an Index to the whole book, (the want of which in former editions was much regretted,) and

Whereas, many of the people have been anxiously waiting for these books, and all the judicatories subordinate to the Assembly will desire, as speedily as possible, to obtain a work which is to regulate their proceedings and govern their decisions in time to come,

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be authorized, and they hereby are authorized and requested to take measures for the sale of these books, at such price as shall seem to them reasonable; that for this purpose they distribute them so extensively that all the ministers and people in the Presbyterian connection may have an opportunity of obtaining a supply.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees pay the proceeds of these sales, as the moneys come to hand, into the Missionary fund; and report their proceedings to the General Assembly from year to year.

Whereas, the General Assembly and the General Association have agreed on a plan for maintaining harmony between the Presbyterian and Congregational churches and people on the frontiers, and the missionaries who have been sent thither,

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions cause a number of copies of this plan to be printed, and delivered to the missionaries who may be sent by the Assembly among the people concerned.

The committee appointed to prescribe the forms of reports from inferior to superior judicatories of the church, exhibited their report with the proposed forms at large.

The Assembly having read the report, and considered the forms submitted to them, approved the same, and ordered that the report with the forms, be printed in an appendix to the extracts of the present year, and that the judicatories concerned be required strictly to observe these forms in their future reports.

A motion was made and seconded, that the next General Assembly be appointed to meet in the town of Alexandria.

The question to agree to this motion, was determined in the negative.

It was then moved and seconded, that the next Assembly be held in the city of Philadelphia.

The question on this motion being taken, was resolved in the affirmative.

*Resolved*, That the roll be now called, agreeably to a standing rule of the General Assembly, and that the Clerk be directed to transmit the names of those members who have left the Assembly without permission, to their respective Presbyteries. The roll being called, and a scrutiny made, it appeared that the Rev. Messrs. Kollock, Martin, and Carrick, and Mr. George McIlvaine had departed without leave.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Whereupon, The Moderator dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution. Concluded with prayer.

## 1807.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 21*st*, 1807.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

The Assembly was opened by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from Philippians iii. 8 : "Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."

After prayer, the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Samuel F. Snowden.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Reuben Sears.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Joel Bradley.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. John Ely.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Asa Hillyer, Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, Rev. Matthew L. Perrine, Rev. John McDowell. Messrs. John Mills, Benjamin Corry, Robert Ogden, and Ephraim Sayre, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Joshua Hart, and Rev. Nathanael Reeve.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Dr. John Woodhull, Rev. Joseph Clark, Rev. John Boyd, and Rev. David Comfort. Messrs. David Bishop, James Dunham, and Israel Stevens, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Rev. Archibald Alexander, and Rev. James P. Wilson. Messrs. Benjamin Wickes, John Harris, and Jonathan Elmer, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, Rev.

Charles Cummings, and Rev. Charles Wallace. Mr. William Kirkpatrick, elder.

Presbytery of Carlisle—The Rev. John Linn, Rev. Robert Cathcart, and Rev. John Moody.

Presbytery of Lewes—The Rev. Stuart Williamson.

Presbytery of Baltimore—Mr. Christopher Johnson, elder.

Presbytery of Huntingdon—The Rev. John Hutchinson.

Presbytery of Redstone—The Rev. William Speer, Rev. Francis Laird. Mr. John M. Snowden, elder.

Presbytery of Erie—The Rev. Thomas E. Hughes, and Rev. John Boyd.

Presbytery of Ohio—The Rev. William McMillan, and Rev. Matthew Brown. Messrs. William McKinley, and William Ray, elders.

Presbytery of Winchester—The Rev. Joseph Glass.

Presbytery of Hanover—The Rev. Conrad Speece.

Presbytery of Lexington—The Rev. Samuel Brown.

Presbytery of West Lexington—Mr. Andrew McCalla, elder.

Presbytery of Transylvania—The Rev. Archibald Cameron.

Presbytery of Washington—The Rev. James Kemper.

First Presbytery of South Carolina—Mr. James S. Murrey, elder.

Presbytery of Abingdon—The Rev. John W. Doake.

Presbytery of Union—The Rev. Gideon Blackburn.

The Rev. Heman Ball appeared in the house, as a delegate to this Assembly, from the General Convention of the Congregational Presbyterian Ministers of the State of Vermont. The certificate of his appointment having been read and approved, he took his seat as a member of the Assembly.

The Rev. Samuel Nott, and the Rev. Amos Bassett appeared in the house, as delegates to this Assembly, from the General Association of the State of Connecticut. The certificate of their appointment having been read and approved, they took their seats as members of the Assembly.

The Rev. Archibald Alexander was chosen Moderator of this Assembly.

The Rev. Nathaniel Irwin desired leave to resign his office as Permanent Clerk on account of the state of his health.

The Assembly accepted the resignation, and, by a unanimous vote, expressed the thanks of the house to Mr. Irwin for his long and faithful services.

*Resolved*, That the choice of a Permanent Clerk be the order for to-morrow forenoon.

The Assembly proceeded to choose a Temporary Clerk, when the Rev. Robert Cathcart was duly chosen.

By order, the Assembly proceeded to read the minutes of the last Assembly, and having made progress, deferred a further attention to this subject till to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Woodhull and Miller, Messrs. Freeman, Linn, Samuel Brown, Samuel F. Snowden, and Hughes, ministers; with the elders, Messrs. Mills, McCalla, and Ray, be a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly resumed and finished the reading of the minutes of the last Assembly.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Comfort and Mr. Speer be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

That Mr. Bradley, and Mr. Nathaniel R. Snowden, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

That Mr. Hillyer, and Mr. Kemper, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

That Mr. Wilson, and Mr. McDowell, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh; and

That Mr. Clark, and Mr. Speece, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly will, on next Monday morning, proceed to a free conversation on the state of religion within the limits of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly, and such persons as may choose to join with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer, and other religious exercises; and that Dr. Woodhull, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Linn, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate the persons who shall lead in the exercises.

An inquiry was instituted whether the Presbyteries who have received religious books for gratuitous distribution, have reported to the Committee of Missions, agreeably to the orders of the last Assembly. It appeared in consequence, that certain Presbyteries had received books for the purpose aforesaid, and had reported agreeably to order. Some other Presbyteries stated that no books had been sent to them in the course of last year; and from the rest no information was obtained.

The delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, reported,

"That agreeably to their appointment they all attended the Association, from the commencement to the close of the sessions. That they were received with the greatest cordiality, and uniformly treated with the utmost liberality, attention, and brotherly affection. That far the larger part of the business of the Association related to the local concerns of the churches of Connecticut, in regard to which the general statement made by the Association itself is as follows: 'Inquiry was made with respect to the state of religion in the churches with which we have connection, from which it resulted, that although much coldness and lukewarmness in spiritual concerns appear in many places, yet in others the spirit of vital piety eminently prevails, and various parts of the vineyard are watered and enriched with heavenly dews. The friends of real religion have much cause to render praise to the great Lord of the vineyard and to persevere in prayer, that showers may descend in plentiful effusions.'

Your delegates were much gratified to observe that the business of missions is prosecuted with great zeal, and very desirable success by the sister churches of Connecticut. Nearly three thousand dollars have been contributed during the year past for the support of Missions, besides what has been received from the profits of the Evangelical Magazine.

There were two acts of the General Association which your delegates supposed it might be grateful and perhaps useful to the Assembly to be acquainted with, and of which accurate copies from the records were obtained, and are as follows, viz:

'1. Whereas a few individuals in the ministry have openly denied the divinity and personality of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

Voted, That this Association, feeling it a duty to bear testimony against principles so subversive of the pillars of gospel truth, of vital piety, and morality, do recommend to their brethren in the State, earnestly to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints; to hold no communion, and to form no exchanges in ministerial duties with preachers of this character.

2. Whereas the relation between a minister and his people is one of the most solemn that can be formed in the world,

Voted, That this body do disapprove of the growing usage in the churches by which this relation is dissolved without making public the true reasons of discontent in the parties, as tending on the one hand to shield the immoralities and erroneous opinions of a minister, and on the other to gloss over the unreasonable discontents and vices of a people.'

All which is respectfully submitted,
JAMES F. ARMSTONG,
JOSEPH CLARK,
ASHBEL GREEN.

*Weatherfield, state of Connecticut, June* 21*st*, 1806."

*Resolved*, That the choice of a Permanent Clerk be deferred till the afternoon.

The Assembly having been informed that a considerable number of copies of the edition of the Confession of Faith, &c., printed by Robert Aitken in the year 1797, remain in the hands of certain agents, subject to the orders of the General Assembly,

*Resolved*, 1. That the copies in the hands of Mr Hathaway, of Rome, be received by the Rev. Samuel F. Snowden, of the Presbytery of Oneida, and disposed of by the said Presbytery at such price as they shall think proper.

2. That those in the hands of Judge Hollenback, of Wilkesbarre, be received by the Rev. John B. Patterson, of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, and disposed of at such price as the said Presbytery shall judge proper.

3. That all other Presbyteries within whose bounds any copies of this edition of the Confession of Faith remain for sale, take such measures for the sale thereof, and at such price as they shall think proper; and that the proceeds of sale, in every case, be forwarded as speedily as possible to Isaac Snowden, Jun., the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to dispose of the interest of certain moneys in the funds of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, appropriated to the education of poor and pious youth, reported,

That they met and disposed of the same, amounting to sixty-seven dollars and sixty-one and a half cents, being the interest of two years, agreeably to order.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Cathcart, Samuel F. Snowden, and Wilson, be a committee to endeavour to obtain information respecting the amount, the tenure, and the appropriation, of the moneys collected in Great Britain by Messrs. Tennent and Davies, and deposited in the funds of the College of New Jersey; and that they report the result of their inquiries to the Assembly at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The Assembly called for the Synodical reports, and the duplicate Presbyterial reports, when the Synod of New York and New Jersey exhibited their reports, which were read and accepted.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

Mr. Christopher Johnson, a ruling elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore, appeared in the house as a commissioner to this Assembly from the Presbytery of Baltimore.

By order, The minutes of last session were read

The Synods of Virginia, Albany, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and the Carolinas, exhibited their reports, which were read and accepted.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly grant a warrant on the Treasurer in favour of the Rev. Joseph Clark, or order, for the payment of twenty dollars, being a sum overpaid by him into the treasury.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Clark, Dr. Miller, and Mr. McDowell, be a committee to prepare and report a plan that may secure as complete a statement as possible from the Presbyteries, of the matters proper to be reported by them, from year to year, to the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Reports of the Synods, and of the Presbyteries which have been laid before this Assembly, be committed to Mr. Nathaniel R. Snowden, Mr. McDowell, and Mr. Harris; and that the committee ascertain and report the number of ministers, churches, communicants, &c., together with the baptisms and collections for one year, agreeably to a standing rule made on this subject by the Assembly.

The Synod of Virginia having, in their report to the Assembly, expressed their purpose of resigning the missionary business entrusted to them, into the hands of the General Assembly, the Assembly agreed to take this subject into consideration.

A motion was then made and seconded, That the General Assembly will, for the time to come, assume the direction and expense of the missionary business within the bounds, and on the borders of the Synod of Virginia.

After some discussion it was, on motion,

*Resolved*, To postpone the consideration of the subject for the present.

Mr. Irwin having requested that the duties of Stated Clerk, devolved on him by the last Assembly, may be assigned to some other person, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That it is expedient to appoint, and that they will proceed to appoint a Stated Clerk, and also a Permanent Clerk, and that their respective duties and compensations shall be as follows, viz:

The Permanent Clerk shall furnish all the stationery for the use of the Assembly, and the several clerks. He shall make the original draught of all the minutes, and give certified copies, as occasion may require, of all such as may be proper to be transmitted to the Trustees of the General Assembly or any of their officers. After the Assembly rises, from year to year, he shall carefully revise the manuscript, render it correct and legible, and deliver it over to the Stated Clerk. He shall receive a reasonable compensation for the stationery supplied by him, and the pay (per diem) fixed by the last Assembly.

The Stated Clerk shall transcribe for the press such parts as may be necessary, of the minutes ordered to be published from year to year. He shall correct the press, and superintend the printing of all the minutes and papers which shall be ordered to be printed by the General Assembly. As soon as the extracts are printed from year to year, he shall send one copy by mail to each Presbytery, and apportion and send the rest by private conveyance to the Presbyteries and other bodies, as shall be prescribed by the Assembly, only reserving a sufficient number of copies for binding. He shall have the charge of all the books and papers of the General Assembly; shall cause their minutes to be fairly transcribed into the book or books provided for the purpose, and give attested copies of all minutes, and other documents, when properly required so to do. As a compensation for his services, he shall receive forty dollars per annum, besides the reasonable expense of printing and packing, and all sums paid by him for the postage of letters addressed to him as Stated Clerk.

In pursuance of the foregoing resolution, the Rev. John E. Latta, of the Presbytery of New Castle, was chosen Permanent Clerk; and the Rev.

Jacob J. Janeway, of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, was chosen Stated Clerk.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly grant a warrant to the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin for the payment of seventeen dollars thirty-seven and an half cents, being the moneys disbursed by him in discharging the duties of Stated Clerk, and for part of the stationery for this Assembly.

A remonstrance from Messrs. Samuel McAdow, William Hoge, John Rankin, and William McGee, (formerly members of the Presbytery of Cumberland,) against an act of the Synod of Kentucky, in suspending them from the office of the holy ministry, was handed in by the Committee of Overtures, and read.

The minutes of the Synod of Kentucky, relating to the subject, were then read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the aforesaid remonstrance be read by paragraphs, omitting such parts of it, as are merely a narrative of the revival of religion :

And it was accordingly read.

In the mean time the members of Synod, who were present, were heard at length in explanation and defence of the conduct of Synod. None of the remonstrants were present. The business was then referred to Messrs. Woodhull, Clark, Speece, Miller, Wilson, Harris, and Ogden, as a committee. And they were directed to report as soon as convenient.

The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Nott, Heman Ball, and William Speer, were added to the Committee of Bills and Overtures.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. John Ely, of the Presbytery of Hudson, and the Rev. Matthew Brown, of the Presbytery of Ohio, appeared in the house, as commissioners to this Assembly. Their commissions were read and approved, and they took their seats as members.

The committees appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported. The records of the former were approved to page 204, inclusive ; and the records of the latter were approved to page 43, inclusive.

The Assembly, agreeably to the order of the day, proceeded to a free conversation on the general state of religion. Messrs. Nott, Ball, Samuel Brown, Speer, and Elmer, were appointed a committee to take notes of the information received on the subject; to digest and form the same into a connected narrative, and lay it before the Assembly. The members of the Assembly were called in the order of the roll, and gave such information as their local and other circumstances enabled them to give.

After a considerable progress in the conversation, the Assembly adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Israel Stevens, ruling elder in the congregation of Maidenhead, appeared in the house as commissioner to this Assembly, from the Presbytery of New Brunswick. His commission was read and approved, and he took his seat as a member.

Mr. William Haslett, ruling elder in the Third Presbyterian church of Philadelphia, the alternate mentioned in the commission with Mr. Wickes, appeared in the house, Mr. Wickes being absent on account of sickness in his family. Mr. Haslett took his seat as a member.

The Treasurer of the Trustees of the Corporation of this Assembly, presented a copy of his annual accounts, as settled and certified by a committee of the Trustees. It was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

The converastion on the state of religion was resumed and concluded. Accounts on this subject were received from all the Presbyteries represented in this Assembly, and also from some Presbyteries not represented. The delegates to this Assembly, from the General Association of the State of Connecticut, and from the Convention of the State of Vermont, gave a general account of the appearances of religion in the States in which they respectively reside.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. Gideon Blackburn for the missionary sermon, which by the appointment of that committee, he delivered the preceding evening.

Agreeably to the order of the last Assembly, respecting the plan recommended by the Assembly, for selecting and educating young men for the gospel ministry, the Presbyteries were called upon in the order of the roll, and inquiry was made whether they had severally performed their duty in this business.

From this inquiry it appeared that the Presbyteries of Oneida, Albany, Columbia, Hudson, Long Island, New York, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, Baltimore, Huntingdon, Redstone, Ohio, Erie, Hanover, Lexington, Transylvania, Washington, and Union, had performed their duty.

The vote, agreeably to the order of last Assembly, was taken on the conduct of each separately, and their attention to the business was approved.

The Presbyteries of Lewes and Abingdon reported that they had not complied with the order; but, the vote being taken, their reasons for not complying were sustained.

The Presbytery of Winchester reported that they also had not complied; the vote being taken, their reasons for delinquency were not sustained.

The Presbytery of West Lexington, though represented in the Assembly, made no report.

The Presbyteries of Geneva, Orange, the First and Second Presbyteries of South Carolina, the Presbyteries of Concord, and Hopewell, which were not represented, also neglected to make report on the subject.

During the inquiry it also appeared that several of the Presbyteries had made very considerable progress in raising funds for that purpose, and that a number of young men were already under their care to be educated agreeably to this plan.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the reports from the Presbyteries on this subject, be in future made in writing.

Agreeably to a standing rule, a nomination of delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, and the Convention of the State of Vermont, was made.

*Resolved*, That the election for these delegates be held in the afternoon.

The Committee of Missions appeared in the house, and made considerable progress in the reading of their report.

Adjourned till half-after 3 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-after three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Agreeably to the resolution of the forenoon, the election was held for three delegates from this Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet in the Congregational church of the Second Society in Saybrook, on the third Tuesday in June next; and for one delegate to the Convention of Vermont, to meet in Middlebury, on the first Tuesday in September next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. George C. Potts, the Rev. Thomas E. Hughes, and the Rev. John McDowell, were duly chosen to attend the Association of Connecticut; and the Rev. Aaron Condict was duly chosen to attend the Convention of Vermont; and the Rev. George S. Woodhull was appointed his alternate.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish those delegates with an attested copy of this record, which shall serve as their commissions.

The following appointments were made for the supplying of their pulpits during their absence on this delegation:

The Presbyteries of Ohio and Erie were directed to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Samuel Whelply was appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. McDowell the second Sabbath in June, and Mr. Gershom Williams the third Sabbath in June.

Dr. Tennent was appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Potts the second Sabbath in June, Mr. John Clark the third Sabbath in June, and Mr. William Latta the fourth Sabbath in June.

Mr. Whelply was appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Condict the third Sabbath in August, and Dr. Ogden the first Sabbath in September.

*Resolved*, That the above mentioned delegates receive each two dollars for every forty miles they shall necessarily travel, both in going to and returning from the place of their respective destinations; and one dollar each, for every day they shall attend, respectively, the sessions of the Association and Convention.

The Committee of Missions resumed and finished the reading of their report; and it was accepted and laid on the table.

Messrs. Hillyer, Samuel F. Snowden, and Elmer, were appointed a committee to take and carefully review this report, and select and report to the house such articles as may require the attention of the Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the request of the Synod of Virginia, that they be permitted to resign the missionary business, hitherto conducted by them; and that the Assembly take the same under their particular direction. The Assembly having heard the reasons assigned by that Synod, declined at present to comply with their request.

The Presbyteries were called upon to report on the plan for raising a fund for defraying the expenses of commissioners to the Assembly, proposed and transmitted by last Assembly to the Presbyteries for their consideration, from which it appeared that a majority of the Presbyteries had approved of the plan. The reports were received, and Messrs. Linn, Matthew Brown, Kemper, Ely, and Blackburn, were appointed a committee to take the same into consideration, and were directed to report as soon as convenient.

The committee appointed to prepare and report a plan that may secure from the Presbyteries as complete a statement as possible of the matters proper to be by them reported, from year to year, to the General Assembly, made their report, which was read, amended, and adopted as follows:

Whereas, It is expedient that the annual reports of Presbyteries to the General Assembly should be extended so as to embrace, as far as possible, the whole of the facts and transactions proper to such reports, that take place between the meeting of one General Assembly and the meeting of the next; therefore

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries in their annual reports to the General Assembly, instead of being in all cases exact duplicates of the Synodical reports, as heretofore directed, be at liberty to extend them to the last meeting of the Presbyteries immediately preceding the meeting of the General Assembly, and embrace all proper matters of report up to that time.

A communication from the Presbytery of Union was handed into the Assembly by the Committee of Overtures, requesting advice in relation to the licensure of John Gloucester, a black man; and Messrs. Clark, Miller, and Samuel Brown, were appointed a committee to take the same into consideration, and report as soon as convenient.

The committee on the case of the remonstrants against the Synod of Kentucky, reported. The report was read and laid on the table.

Adjourned till half-past three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Inquiry was made of the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, and that of Philadelphia, to which it was recommended by the Assembly to raise funds for the aid of distant commissioners, what sums they had collected for this purpose.

From this inquiry it appeared that the Presbytery of New York had collected one hundred dollars; New Brunswick fifty-five dollars forty-two cents; Philadelphia one hundred dollars; New Castle twelve dollars and one cent; and Carlisle thirty dollars; which sums were paid to the Treasurer.

Messrs. Cathcart, Wilson, and Comfort, were appointed a committee to report a plan for the distribution of the above moneys amongst the distant commissioners attending this Assembly.

The committee appointed to digest and form the information received on the state of religion into a connected narrative, made a report; which having been read, was re-committed to the same committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 28th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The summary of the state of religion, recommitted on the preceding evening for transcription, having been transcribed, was again read, and being still farther amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

"The Assembly having heard from its members a circumstantial account of the state of religion within their bounds, and parts adjacent, are of opinion, that during the last year the cause of vital piety has in general been progressive.

In such portions of the country as have been favoured with the regular administration of the gospel ordinances, and in such vacant congregations as have received the usual supplies from the Presbyteries, there appears in general a gradual advancement in knowledge, and respect for divine institutions.

Throughout a great part of the vast region to which the Assembly extended their inquiries, new churches are forming, and those already formed are receiving successively additional members. Migrations from some parts, particularly those which are central in the state of Pennsylvania, reduce the churches, but furnish, on the southwestern frontier, the seeds of new congregations.

In various congregations belonging to the Synod of New York and New Jersey, we are presented with evidences of Almighty power and grace accompanying the word of God, and producing happy effects.

Similar effusions of the Holy Spirit on different churches under the care of the General Association of Connecticut, and of the Convention of Vermont, likewise demand our offers of fervent gratitude to God for his great mercies. These divine favours, though not widely extended in any particular district, are of great importance; and the more so, as they have extended their influence to the young men in one or more literary institutions, where are generally formed those characters on whom, under God, depend, in a great measure, the important concerns of the church, and of the nation.

In those parts, silent solemnity and deep impression pervade the saving work of God. And the churches throughout, including our brethren of the General Association of Connecticut, and of the Convention of Vermont, are harmoniously engaged in the promotion of religion, and dwell in peace.

The late extraordinary revivals of religion in the south and west, appear to be gradually declining; leaving, in our view, many fervent followers and friends of the Saviour, who stand ready to do whatever their hands find to be done for the glory of God, and the salvation of their fellow men. Whilst these parts of the Church exhibit sundry causes for serious and anxious solicitude, they still present to view, many whose convictions and pressing inquiries, give ground for comfortable expectations; and in various corners of this part of the vineyard, the operations of Almighty power and sovereign grace, arrest the attention, and demand thanksgiving.

Their missionaries, in different parts, have manifested a zeal and industry equal to the expectations of the Assembly; and by their labours have, we trust, been instrumental in producing those great benefits to mankind, which will be the most grateful reward of the liberal contributions which our people have made for missionary purposes.

We also view with solicitous expectation, the gradual advances of two tribes of Indians, whose apparent disposition to subject themselves to the benign influences of civilization, literature, and religion, though marked with their usual caution and suspicion, has made considerable progress, and exhibited favourable appearances.

For these great blessings let God be praised.

But alas! in connection with the review of the manifestations of divine love and mercy, many humbling evidences of human depravity and weakness constrain us to painful remarks. The sincere worshippers of God compared with the great mass of society, appear few; the important duties of domestic religion in many instances are neglected; and in many, are only partially attended to. The Assembly also deplore the obviously increasing dereliction of truth, which in some parts pervades all classes of society; the prevalence of the profanation of the sacred names of Jehovah, the violation of the Sabbath; and, in many parts, debasing intemperance in the use of ardent spirits. They deplore likewise the prevalent inordinate attachment to the things, and to the friendship of the world.

We have still cause to lament, that in those situations where attendance is most convenient, and the advantages for religious improvement are great, many of our people forsake their religious assemblies on one part of the day. But above all, and in close and fatal union with this last and the preceding evils, they deplore the prevalence of unbelief; that state of mind which is enmity against God, reproaches his truth, and contemns the amiable glories of redeeming love.

In circumstances highly distinguished by the blessings of heaven, both in a religious and civil view, especially when contrasted with the state of many nations, such evidences of ingratitude and impiety, present alarming provocations to a holy God. They awfully increase our guilt, and rouse our fears. Surely the Lord is long suffering and of tender mercy; therefore, amidst all our provocations, we are permitted to view Zion rising with increasing glories and extension; and to see some late arrangements for increasing the number of pious and faithful ministers, opening a flattering prospect in this important concern.

The Assembly, on the whole, praise God for the degree of success with which he has been pleased to crown their efforts for the extension of his kingdom, and the edification of the body of Christ; and, relying on the liberal contributions and pious co-operation of their people, both by their holy living and fervent prayers to God, desire to prosecute, under the encouragement with which they are favoured, with redoubled diligence, the great and interesting undertakings which have hitherto employed their cares and their labours."

The committee appointed to select the articles contained in the report of the Committee of Missions, which require the attention of the Assembly, made their report, which was laid on the table for future consideration.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to ask from Mr. Blackburn a copy of the sermon delivered by him, agreeably to their appointment, on Monday evening last; and in case of his compliance, the said committee were directed to cause the same, or such parts of it as they may judge proper, to be printed in such manner as they think best.

The report of the committee on the case of the remonstrants against the Synod of Kentucky, was again called up and read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Assembly are not competent to take up at present the subject referred to in the report, to any farther extent than to examine and approve or censure the records of the Synod of Kentucky, and to give such advices and instructions in the case as to them may seem meet.

Adjourned till half-after three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-after 3 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Dr. John Woodhull resigned his seat to the Rev. George S. Woodhull, the alternate mentioned in his commission; and Mr. Woodhull took his seat as a member.

The report of the committee on the case of the remonstrants against the Synod of Kentucky, was taken up, and the Assembly proceeded to read and consider it by paragraphs; and after making some progress therein, its further consideration was deferred.

Messrs. Nathaniel R. Snowden, Bishop, and Dunham, had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 29th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. James S. Murray, ruling elder, appeared in the house as a commissioner on behalf of the First Presbytery of South Carolina. His commission was read and approved, and he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Freeman resigned his seat to the Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, the alternate mentioned in his commission; and Mr. Janeway took his seat as a member.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, that they had examined them; and the records were approved to page 327 inclusive.

The committee apointed to make out a compendious view of Presbyterial reports, brought in their report, and it was accepted, and an order passed that it be transcribed, by the Stated Clerk, into the blank book procured for that purpose.

The Assembly, deeply lamenting the great deficiency in Presbyterial reports, again strictly enjoined on the Presbyteries to take effectual measures to procure and forward annually reports as complete as possible, according to the forms prepared by the Assembly.

The report of the committee on the case of the remonstrants against the Synod of Kentucky, was resumed, and the reading of it by paragraphs was finished. The votes being taken on the whole, the report was rejected.

Messrs. Linn and Miller were added to the committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky. The remonstrance against the Synod of Kentucky was also committed to the same committee, for their consideration; and the committee was directed to report as soon as convenient.

The committee appointed to consider the plan of raising a fund for defraying the expenses of commissioners to the Assembly, reported, and the report was taken up to be read by paragraphs, but was left unfinished.

Mr. Doake had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till half-after three o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-after three o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The committee appointed to prepare a plan for the distribution of the moneys collected for the aid of distant commissions, reported; and the report was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the following sums be paid as hereafter specified, viz:

| | Sums total. | Sums already received. | Sums yet due. |
|---|---|---|---|
| To Mr. McCalla, | $60 45 | $00 | $60 45 |
| Mr. Blackburn, | 60 95 | 20 | 40 95 |
| Mr. Cameron, | 61 26 | 00 | 61 26 |
| Mr. Kemper, | 52 49 | 17 | 35 49 |
| Mr. Doake, | 46 56 | 00 | 46 56 |
| Mr. McMillan, | 30 48 | 20 | 10 48 |
| Mr. Thomas E. Hughes, | 29 63 | 17 | 12 63 |
| Mr. John Boyd, (of Erie,) | 29 63 | 17 | 12 63 |
| Mr. Ray, | 28 78 | 20 | 8 78 |
| Mr. Matthew Brown, | 27 09 | 20 | 7 09 |

Ordered, That the Treasurer of the Trustees pay the sums as above specified.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, That they had examined them; and the records were approved to page 91, inclusive.

The report* of the committee appointed to consider the plan of raising a fund for defraying the expenses of commissioners to the Assembly, was resumed, and the reading of it by paragraphs was finished. The report, being amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That as the General Assembly is not only the supreme judicature, but the essential bond of union of the Presbyterian Church, in the United States of America, it is equally incumbent on every part of that Church to maintain its existence and respectability, and to bear a just proportion of all the expense necessary to that end.

2. *Resolved*, That the practice which has hitherto obtained of each Presbytery defraying the expense of its own commissioners to the Assembly, or permitting commissioners to bear the whole, or a large part of their own expenses, is not equal or just, inasmuch as it obliges the remote Presbyteries, and their commissioners, to bear a burden many times greater than that which falls on those near to the place at which the General Assembly convenes, when the duty to be discharged by both is precisely the same, and ought not to be more oppressive to one than to the other: therefore,

3. *Resolved*, That a fund be constituted, under the direction of the General Assembly, to which all parts of the Church shall contribute, and out of which all the commissioners to the Assembly shall be punctually paid, agreeably to an equitable estimate of the expenses necessarily incurred by each.

4. *Resolved*, That this fund shall never be blended with that which is already established and appropriated to missionary purposes, but that the Assembly do hereby pledge themselves to keep these two funds, at all times, entirely separate and distinct, so that they shall not, on any occasion, make even a temporary draft on the one, to supply the deficiencies of the other.

5. *Resolved*, That each commissioner to the General Assembly shall receive, out of the common fund, two dollars for every thirty miles which he shall necessarily travel, in coming to, and in returning from the Assembly; and if, in any year, the fund be not adequate to pay all the commissioners at this rate, another ratio to which the fund shall be adequate, shall be assumed, agreeably to which, each member shall be paid according to the distance he shall travel.

6. *Resolved*, That all the congregations under the care of the General Assembly, contribute pecuniary aid to the fund herein contemplated, either by raising an annual contribution, expressly and wholly for this fund, or by endeavouring to extend the contribution already ordered for the missionary fund, and then making an equitable division between the two funds.

7. *Resolved*, That in those congregations where only one contribution is made, the session of each congregation may divide said contribution, and determine what part of the sum contributed shall go to each fund respectively; but if any session shall not make, and report to Presbytery, a division of the contribution herein ordered, the Presbytery shall divide the contribution of such congregation, and assign to each fund the proportion thereof which they shall judge equitable.

8. *Resolved*, That every Presbytery be careful annually to send forward by their commissioners to the General Assembly, the sums which shall have been collected within the bounds of each Presbytery respectively, for the Commissioners' Fund; which shall be paid into the hands of the Treasurer

---

* This report differs but very slightly from the one recorded in the full Minutes of last year.

of the Trustees of the Assembly: and the said Trustees are hereby requested to direct their Treasurer, annually, at an early period of the sessions, to present to the Assembly the amount received from each Presbytery, and (as far as may be practicable) from every congregation within the same.

9. *Resolved*, That the Assembly shall annually inquire of the commissioners from each Presbytery, what has been done the year past in the bounds of the Presbytery to which the commissioners respectively belong, to carry into effect the design of the Assembly in these resolutions.

10. *Resolved*, That whereas it is manifestly inequitable that those parts of the church, which will not contribute to the important objects of these resolutions, should receive benefit from the contributions of others, if it shall appear on inquiry that any Presbytery has been manifestly inattentive to the duty herein enjoined, so that the congregations generally within its bounds, shall not have raised their reasonable proportion of the sum necessary to constitute and support the Commissioners' Fund; the commissioners from that Presbytery shall, for the year in which such manifest inattention and deficiency shall appear, receive out of the Commissioners' Fund, only the sum which they have contributed to it; at all times, however, the General Assembly will make a candid allowance for those circumstances of any Presbyteries or congregations which ought, in equity, to abate the expectations of much pecuniary aid from their exertions.

11. *Resolved*, That if it shall happen in process of time, that the fund raised in consequence of these resolutions, shall exceed the sum necessary to secure the payment of the expenses of the commissioners, the surplus shall (at the end of every fifth year, reckoning from the first year that the surplus shall occur) be paid into the Missionary Fund; and that in disposing of this surplus, the Assembly will remit to the several Synods that manage the missionary business separately, their proportion of such surplus, to be determined by the ratio of their respective contributions to this fund.

12. *Resolved*, That it be, and it hereby is earnestly recommended, not only to all the Presbyteries, but to all the ministers under the care of the General Assembly, to endeavour to explain to their people the equity, the importance, and the necessity, of contributing to the Commissioners' Fund; showing them, that without spirited exertions to raise money for this fund, there is imminent danger that the harmony of our church will be destroyed, and its capacity of acting in concert with efficiency in all its great and interesting measures for promoting the gospel, will be speedily terminated.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia submitted to the Assembly for their decision the case of Mr. John Jones, a licentiate under their care, who at their last sessions had requested that the Presbytery would take measures to ordain him *sine titulo*. The Presbytery stated that Mr. Jones had been a licensed candidate for a number of years; that he had always sustained a good and consistent character; that he was engaged in teaching an Academy, and was so circumstanced, that his being ordained might render him more extensively useful. The Assembly having considered the case,

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Philadelphia be permitted and authorized to ordain Mr. Jones to the work of the gospel ministry *sine titulo*, provided the Presbytery from a full view of his qualifications, and other attending circumstances, shall think it expedient so to ordain him.

An appeal having been taken by Mr. John Gordon, from the decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, affirming the judgment of the Presbytery of Redstone, by which the Presbytery had suspended Mr. Gordon and his wife from the distinguishing privileges of the church, on the charge of ante-nuptial fornication, was brought in by the Committee of Overtures. The Assembly having before them the evidence which had been before the Synod, and having fully heard the members of that Synod present in defence of their decision, it was, on motion,

*Resolved*, That the decision of the Synod, in affirming the judgment of the Presbytery of Redstone, be reversed.

And it, therefore, was reversed.

The committee appointed to consider the case of John Gloucester, a black man, reported. The report was read, and laid on the table.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 30th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The report of the committee on the case of John Gloucester was taken up and again read.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, to postpone, for the present, the farther consideration of this report, with a view to take up and consider a proposed substitute. The substitute was then taken up, and having been read by paragraphs, was amended. The whole being under discussion, the farther consideration of the subject was suspended, that the report of the Committee of Missions might be read.

The committee then made their report, which was referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration their former report.

The discussion, suspended as before stated, was resumed, and the vote being taken on the whole, it was adopted, and is as follows:

"Whereas, from the communications from the Presbytery of Union, it appears, that the said John Gloucester has been for some time under the care of the Presbytery of Union; that, in the opinion of that Presbytery, he possesses promising talents and eminent piety; that he has been, for several years, engaged in the study of literature and theology, but has not yet obtained all the literary qualifications usually required in candidates for licensure; and that, if he were licensed, there is much reason to believe he might be highly useful in preaching the gospel among those of his own colour; and whereas, said Presbytery requests the advice of the General Assembly, therefore,

*Resolved*, 1. That the General Assembly highly approve the caution and prudence of the Presbytery of Union in this case.

2. That, considering the circumstances of this particular case, viz: the evidence of unusual talents, discretion, and piety, possessed by John Gloucester; the good reason there is to believe that he may be highly useful in preaching the gospel among those of his own colour; and the various difficulties likely to attend a farther delay in proceeding in this case, the General Assembly did, and hereby do authorize the Presbytery of Philadelphia to consider the case of John Gloucester; and, if they think proper, to license him to preach the gospel.

Mr. Wilson requested permission to resign his seat to the Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, the alternate mentioned in his commission. The request was granted, and Dr. Green took his seat as a member.

Mr. Israel Stevens had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly; and Messrs. Speer and Matthew Brown had also leave, after this day, of absence during the sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 5 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*5 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Grant, the delegate appointed by the last Assembly, to attend the Convention of Vermont, reported, that he had attended, agreeably to his appointment; that he had presented to the Convention twenty-five copies of the Extracts from the Minutes of the last General Assembly, which were thankfully received; that he was treated with every attention and respect; and that the Convention appeared to be gratified with the intercourse which had taken place between them and the General Assembly, and expressed a hope that it might be lasting and productive of great good.

Mr. Grant further reported, that the Rev. Heman Ball was appointed a commissioner by the Convention to attend the next General Assembly; that the next General Convention of Vermont will be held at Middlebury, in the north western Association, on the first Tuesday of September next. The following extract accompanied the report:

"At a meeting of the General Convention of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers of the State of Vermont, in Brattleborough, on the first Tuesday in September, 1806,

*Voted*, Thanks to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, for their attention in sending a delegate to our body, and for the present of a number of Extracts from their Minutes.

Attest, THOMAS A. MERRIL, *Scribe.*"

Mr. Grant stated that in going to and returning from the convention he had travelled three hundred miles; and directed that the amount to be allowed him for attending the convention, should be given to the aid of Mr. Blackburn's Indian school.

The Assembly directed that the Trustees issue a warrant in favour of Mr. Blackburn for the sum of seventeen dollars, in pursuance of the above donation.

The committee appointed to inquire into the state of the funds, at the disposal of this Assembly, deposited with the Trustees of New Jersey College, reported. The report was read and accepted, and is as follows:

"Although the committee have not been able to find any particular minute containing the agreement between the Trustees of that Institution and this Assembly, yet from information obtained they have reason to believe that such an agreement exists, and that it permits the Trustees to hold said moneys at five per cent., and the Assembly to make the appropriation. The committee therefore are of opinion that the business requires no interference at this time on the part of the Assembly.

N. B. The sum that appears to be in the hands of the Trustees is six hundred and seventy-eight dollars and nineteen cents."

Mr. George S. Woodhull, and Mr. Comfort, were appointed a committee to meet with the Trustees of New Jersey College on the last Wednesday in September next, and to dispose of the interest that may then be due on the moneys in the hands of said Trustees.

On motion, *Resolved*, That there be no election this year for Trustees of the Corporation of this Assembly.

The Moderator, Mr. Wilson, and the Stated and Permanent Clerks were appointed a committee to select such parts of the minutes of this Assembly as are proper and necessary to be printed.

It was Ordered, That there be an appendix to the printed extracts, containing an account of the missions to the Indians, as stated in the reports to the Committee of Missions.

It appeared, that a report relating to the missionary business had been received by the Committee of Missions from the Synod of Pittsburgh. It appeared also, that the missionary business had been attended to by the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas, but no regular reports were received.

The publishing of the narrative relative to the state of religion, and the part of the minutes relating to the missions of the current year, separately, as directed by the last Assembly, was referred to the Committee of Missions.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky, reported. The report was taken up, and being read by paragraphs, was amended. The question on the whole, as amended, not being taken, it was ordered that it lie on the table.

Mr. John Boyd, of Erie, had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*June* 1*st*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The reports of the committee appointed to select the articles of the reports of the Committee of Missions, which require the attention of the Assembly, were recommitted to the same committee, with a view that they may bring in distinct resolutions on each article.

A remonstrance of the First Presbytery of South Carolina, against a petition of the Synod of the Carolinas, for a division of said Synod, as proposed in that petition, was brought in and read, and an order passed that it be put on the files of the house, as the petition remonstrated against had not been received by the Assembly.

The report of the committee appointed to review the records of the Synod of Kentucky, and to take into consideration the remonstrance against that Synod, was again taken up, and the vote being taken on the whole, it was adopted, and is as follows:

"The records of said Synod appear to have been carefully kept, and that they approve the same, a few inaccuracies, and some part of the proceedings, excepted.

"The committee recommend to the Assembly to appoint a committee to prepare and bring in a draught of an answer to the remonstrance of Messrs. Samuel McAdow, William Hodge, John Rankin, and William McGee."

On hearing the report of the committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky, the Assembly, after deliberation,

*Resolved*, That a letter be addressed to that Synod, as follows, viz:

"*Dear Brethren:*—The record of your proceedings in regard to the dissolution of the Presbytery of Cumberland, and other measures connected with that act, has attracted the marked attention of this Assembly, and been the subject of much discussion. The Assembly have truly sympathized with your Synod in reviewing the very interesting circumstances in which you have been placed, and the embarrassing concerns which you have been called to manage. While the Assembly have found it their duty, on the one hand, to approve of many of your proceedings on the very irregular and censurable conduct of that Presbytery, and even to commend the zeal and decision with which you have acted, they are constrained, on the other, to suggest, that your proceedings in demanding that the young men irregularly licensed, be given up to your body for examination; in suspending the irregularly ordained ministers without process in their case; and in suspending Messrs. Hodge and Rankin, for not submitting to the re-examination of the young men, are at least of questionable regularity. They, therefore, advise that you seriously review these proceedings, and consider whether some of them ought not to be rescinded, and steps speedily taken to mitigate the sufferings which your censure appears to have produced, and to remove at least a part of the complaints which it has excited. In doing this, we cannot be supposed to recommend that any demands of our constitutional standards of doctrine, discipline, and government, should be violated or disregarded. These demands are equally binding on us and on you, and the recognition of their justice and obligation ought to be considered as indispensable in all who are to exercise the holy ministry in connection with our Church. But there is, and ever must be supposed in those who are vested with power, the right and the duty of exercising a sound discretion; which will consult the spirit as well as the letter of the law; which will sometimes forbid the exercise of power which is possessed; which will endeavour with equal caution to avoid the extremes of rigour and of laxness; which will yield something, yet not concede every thing, to circumstances; which, in a word, will recollect that power is given for edification and not for destruction, and endeavour to be guided by this rule. We hope, brethren, that in the exercise of this discretion, you may soon be able to re-establish the Presbytery of Cumberland, and to restore to Christian communion, and ministerial usefulness, some of its former members and licentiates, without sacrificing either the doctrines or the government of our Church. Of this you must judge; and we pray that the great Head of the Church may enable you so to judge and act as that the true and lasting interests of his Church may really be promoted by your measures." Signed by order of the Assembly.

The yeas and nays being called for on the adoption of the above letter, they were taken, and are as follows, viz:

*Yeas*—Messrs. Bradly, Seers, Ely, Miller, Hillyer, Perrine, McDowell, Mills, Corry, Ogden, Sayre, Hart, Clark, Comfort, Boyd, Woodhull, Haslet, Harris, Cummins, Wallace, Glass, Speece, McCalla, Kemper, Murray, Blackburn—26.

*Nays*—Snowden, Green, Janeway, Elmer, Linn, Catheart, Moody, Johnson, Williamson, Hutchinson, Laird, Hughes, McMillan, Ray, Brown, Cameron—16.

Messrs. Woodhull and McDowell were appointed a committee to write an answer to the remonstrance against the Synod of Kentucky.

Mr. Glass had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to report distinct resolutions on the several articles in the reports of the Committee of Missions, which require the attention of the Assembly, reported the following resolutions, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That as the Rev. Jedediah Chapman continues in circumstances to render important missionary services, but cannot specify any particular portion of his time which he can devote to that object, he be furnished with a commission as a missionary without fixing the time of his service, and that at the end of the year he report to the Committee of Missions the time he shall have spent as such; which after obtaining the approbation of the committee shall insure to him the usual allowance; it being understood that three months' allowance is not to be exceeded.

2. That the Presbytery of Columbia be authorized to employ, at the expense of the General Assembly, one missionary (who may be a licentiate) for two months in the region between Skenesborough and the Canada line, including the county of St. Lawrence; and to send one of their own mem-

bers to act as a missionary for two months, on the same route, also at the expense of the General Assembly; the Missionaries to be commissioned by the Committee of Missions, and report to them, and that the allowance for their services shall not exceed the customary allowance to missionaries; that is to say, thirty-three dollars thirty-three and one-third cents for each calendar month spent in the service.

3. That the like privilege be extended to the Presbytery of Albany, under the same conditions, and the missionaries to be employed in the same route.

4. That the Rev. William Clark be employed for three months, under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Chapman.

5. That the Rev. John Lindsley be employed for two, or (if he prefer it) for three months, in the new settlements in the Holland purchase, and to go as far as the town of Erie.

6. That the Presbytery of New York be authorized to employ a missionary for two months, to be spent in the northern parts of the state of Pennsylvania, and the southern parts of the state of New York, between the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers; the missionary to be commissioned by the Committee of Missions, report to them, and be paid out of the funds of the General Assembly, at the rate usually allowed to missionaries.

7. That the Rev. Stephen Thompson be employed as a missionary for two months, in the destitute places in the counties of Morris and Sussex, in New Jersey, and the adjacent parts of New York.

8. That the Rev. Dr. Thomas Read be employed for one month, and Mr. Bradford Marcy for two months, in missionary labours, from Duck Creek in Kent, to Broad Creek in Sussex, upon the peninsula, between Delaware and Chesapeake bays and the ocean.

9. That the Rev. John H. Rice be employed for three months, as a missionary to the blacks in Charlotte county, Virginia, and parts adjacent.

10. That the Rev. James Mitchell be employed for three months in Montgomery and the adjacent counties in Virginia.

11. That Mr. John Chavis be employed for three months, as a missionary to the blacks in North Carolina and Virginia, and that he be left at discretion as to his route.

12. That the Rev. Robert Stuart, and Samuel Finley, be employed each for three months, within the bounds of the late Cumberland Presbytery; and that the Rev. David Rice spend three months within the bounds of the said Presbytery, or in the Miami country, as he may judge fit.

13. That the Rev. Samuel Scott, of West Lexington Presbytery, be employed for three months, in the Indiana territory, and particularly at Vincennes.

14. That the Rev. Gideon Blackburn be employed, for three months, as a missionary to the Cherokee Indians.

15. That the Rev. Joshua Wilson, of Bairdstown, be employed for three months, at discretion.

16. That the Rev. William Wick be employed as a missionary, for three months in New Connecticut.

17. That five hundred dollars be appropriated for the use of the Hywassee school, in the Cherokee country, for the current year.

18. That the Trustees of the General Assembly be authorized and directed to pay, when the circumstances of the funds, during the course of the present year, will permit, two hundred dollars to the Board of Trust, of the Synod of Pittsburgh, for the support of the Indian mission under their care; and if it shall appear consistent with the state of the funds, after provision shall have been made to satisfy, generally, the other appropriations for missionary services, the Committee of Missions, and Trustees of the Assembly,

be authorized and directed to apply one hundred dollars more toward promoting the important design above mentioned.

19. That the Assembly direct, that all moneys collected, or hereafter to be collected, for the use of the General Assembly, or for the payment of missionaries, appointed by this Assembly, be sent to the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly, in order to prevent confusion in the accounts of the Trustees, by whom all payments must be made, according to charter; and to enable them to state with precision to the Committee of Missions the sums which can annually be appropriated to missionary purposes.

20. That the Rev. Gideon Blackburn be authorized to dispose of one hundred and twenty-eight copies of the old edition of the Confession of Faith, (now in his possession,) at such price as he can obtain for them in money; or, if it can be done to greater advantage, to give them in exchange for articles suitable for the Indian school under his care; and in either case, to apply the proceeds to the use of the Hywassee school, giving proper credit in his account for the amount.

21. That the Trustees of the General Assembly issue warrants on their Treasurer to pay the balances due for missionary services, viz: to the Rev. John Lyle, $47 92; Mr. Samuel B. Wilson, $64 34; Rev. Thomas E. Hughes, $33 34; Rev. William Wick, $33 33; Rev. Robert Stuart, $93 38; Rev. John Chavis, $29 34; Rev. James Mitchell, $30 92; Rev. Jedediah Chapman, $15 17; Rev. William Clark, $59 69; Rev. Gershom Williams, $9 11; Rev. John H. Rice, $66 67; Rev. Asa Dunham, $27 53; Rev. Gideon Blackburn, $100; Mr. Bradford Marcy, $27 09. Total $637 83.

22. That Presbyteries, which have not reported to the Committee of Missions, relative to the distribution of books,* agreeably to the order of last year, (printed Extracts, page 127,) make report.

23. That the Committee of Missions draught an address to the owners of slaves, stating clearly the views of the Assembly in sending missionaries to preach among the blacks, in the southern parts of the United States; and lay it before the next General Assembly.

24. That the proposal of the editor of the Assembly's Magazine, so far as relates to the contract and alteration of the title, be referred to the Committee of Missions; and that the Trustees of the General Assembly be authorized to execute any contract, to which the Committee of Missions may agree; and that Dr. Green and Mr. Alexander be a committee to superintend the publication, agreeably to the proposal of Mr. Farrand.

The committee appointed to write an answer to the Remonstrance of Messrs. Samuel McAdow, William Hodge, John Rankin, and William McGee, brought in the following answer, which, being amended, was adopted:

*Brethren*—The Assembly have received your address, in which you inform them, that the Synod of Kentucky have suspended you from your ministerial office, and in which you request this Assembly to interpose in your case without delay. The Assembly are grieved at finding, that any unhappy differences exist in that part of the Church of Christ in which you reside. The conduct of the Presbytery of Cumberland, in licensing and ordaining a number of persons not possessing the qualifications required by our Book of Discipline, and without explicit adoption of the Confession of Faith, appears to have been the origin of the evils of which you now complain. The Assembly are constrained to express their decided disapprobation of this conduct, as being highly irregular and unconstitutional, leading to the most dangerous consequences in introducing into our Church as teachers illiterate men, and men of any religious principles, however erroneous. But, inasmuch as you have not regularly appealed to this Assembly, they do not consider themselves as called on judicially to decide on your case. The Assembly have advised the Synod of Kentucky to review their proceedings with regard to you, and to their decision we refer you.

---

* Some books remain with the Committee of Missions.

We exhort you, brethren, to return a strict and steady adherence to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, and that you sincerely endeavour to promote the peace and best interest of the Redeemer's kingdom.

Ordered, that a copy of this letter, signed by the Moderator, be transmitted by the Stated Clerk to the persons to whom it is addressed.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*June 2d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of last session were read.

The Assembly proceeded to take measures for supplying the pulpits of the missionaries, appointed for the present year, who have pastoral charges. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Stephen Thompson and Mr. John McDowell be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Stephen Thompson.

That Dr. Thomas Read and Mr. John E. Latta be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Dr. Read.

That Mr. Joseph B. Lapsley and Mr. Gideon Blackburn be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Blackburn.

That Mr. James Vans and Mr. Joshua L. Wilson be a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Wilson.

And that the Presbytery of Erie appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Wick.

The following persons were chosen and appointed to serve as a standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Philadelphia and the vicinity—Dr. Blair, Dr. Green, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Janeway, Mr. Potts, Mr. Wilson, Dr. Boudinot, Mr. Hazard, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Haslet, and Mr. Robert Smith.

Synod of Albany—The Rev. Jonas Coe.
Synod of New York and New Jersey—The Rev. Edward D. Griffin.
Synod of Philadelphia—The Rev. Robert Cathcart.
Synod of Pittsburgh—The Rev. James Hughes.
Synod of Virginia—The Rev. Conrad Speece.
Synod of Kentucky—The Rev. James Blythe; and
Synod of the Carolinas—The Rev. William C. Davis.

The Assembly, having elected their Standing Committee of Missions for the present year, did and hereby do enjoin it on those members of said committee, who live at a distance from the place where the committee meet, to communicate to the committee in writing, any information on the subject of missions, which they may suppose will be useful, and especially within the bounds of that Synod to which these distant members may severally belong.

On motion, *Resolved*, That it be a standing order of the General Assembly, for the direction of the Trustees of the General Assembly, and the standing Committee of Missions, that the missionaries severally be allowed a month's compensation in advance, when the time for which they are severally employed shall exceed a month.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue a warrant for the payment of twenty-two dollars to William Campbell, for eleven days' service rendered the Assembly, during the present sessions.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to the Temporary Clerk for his faithful services.

The Assembly directed that the Trustees issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk for his services, agreeably to the rate fixed by the last Assembly, and also for the stationery furnished by him for the use of the Assembly.

The following extract from the minutes of the Trustees was handed to the Moderator, and read, viz:

"By order of the Trustees of the General Assembly, information is communicated to that reverend body, that the Trustees have elected the Rev. George C. Potts, their Secretary, and Mr. Isaac Snowden, jr., their Treasurer, for the present year."

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, it appeared, that Mr. William Kirkpatrick, of the Presbytery of New Castle; Mr. John M. Snowden, of the Presbytery of Redstone; and Mr. William McKinley, of the Presbytery of Ohio, elders, had left the Assembly without permission.

The Stated Clerk was directed to transmit a copy of this minute to the Presbyteries respectively, which those persons represented.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, therefore, dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution. Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1807.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Churches.* | *Licentiates.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oneida, | 7 | 10 | — | 284 | $64 |
| Columbia, | 10 | 15 | 2 | 411 | 64 |
| Albany, | 9 | 13 | — | 570 | 156 |
| Hudson, | 10 | 21 | 2 | 608 | 65 |
| New York, | 23 | 21 | 2 | 2858 | 812 |
| Long Island. | No report. | | | | |
| New Brunswick, | 20 | 31 | 1 | 2017 | 329 |
| Philadelphia, | 17 | 20 | 1 | 1500 | 871 |
| New Castle, | 19 | 34 | 3 | 954 | 228 |
| Carlisle, | 18 | 22 | 1 | 1852 | 184 |
| Baltimore, | 9 | 7 | — | 156 | 87 |
| Lewes, | 4 | 8 | 1 | 632 | — |
| Huntingdon, | 14 | 37 | 1 | 558 | 42 |
| Redstone, | 14 | 24 | — | — | — |
| Ohio, | 23 | 58 | 6 | 2990 | 703 |
| Erie, | 15 | 52 | 1 | 1152 | — |
| Winchester, | 7 | 16 | 1 | — | — |
| Hanover, | 12 | 19 | 1 | — | 910 |
| Lexington, | 12 | 23 | 2 | — | 106 |
| West Lexington. | No report. | | | | |
| Washington, | 10 | 32 | 2 | 618 | 20 |
| Transylvania. | No report. | | | | |
| Orange, | 13 | 29 | 4 | — | — |
| 1st, South Carolina, | 15 | 31 | 1 | 297 | — |
| 2d, do. | 10 | 24 | 1 | — | — |
| Abingdon. | No report. | | | | |
| Concord, | 15 | 31 | 1 | 414 | — |
| Union, | 10 | — | — | — | — |
| Hopewell, | No report. | | | | |
| Total, | 330 | 598 | 35 | 17,871 | $4,641 |

These reports are very incomplete.

## 1808.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 19*th*, 1808.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and was opened by the Rev. Archibald Alexander, the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from 1 Cor. xiv. 12, last clause of the verse, "Seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the Church."

After prayer, the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. David Higgins.

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. William Neill.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Robert H. Chapman. Mr. Jesse Fairchild, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. John B. Romeyn, and Rev. John J. Christie.*

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Isaac Lewis, and Rev. Ebenezer Grant. Mr. Reuben Hopkins, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Dr. John McKnight, Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Rev. Elias Riggs, and Rev. Buckley Carll. Messrs. Nathaniel Little, John Angus, John Lindley, and William Steele,† elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Nathan Woodhull. Mr. Jesse Leverick, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Dr. John Woodhull,‡ Rev. James F. Armstrong, Rev. Robert Finley, and Rev. Andrew Hunter. Messrs. John Browne,§ Samuel Bayard,|| and Benjamin Smith, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Dr. James P. Wilson,¶ Rev. Archibald Alexander, and Rev. Robert Russel. Messrs. John McMullin, Hugh Henry,** and Francis G. Brewster, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. William Arthur, Rev. John E. Latta, Rev. Samuel Martin,†† and Rev. William Kerr. Messrs. William Brisben, Hugh Gemmill, and William Whitely,‡‡ elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. James Snodgrass, Rev. Robert Cathcart, and Rev. Francis Herron. Mr. William Harris,§§ elder.

PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—The Rev. John B. Slemons. Mr. Simon Kollock,|||| elder.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. James Inglis, and Rev. William Maffet.¶¶ Mr. John Macdaniel, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. William Stuart.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. William Wylie, and Rev. James Galbraith.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. Samuel Tait, and Rev. William Woods

---

* Took his seat the second day of the sessions.

† Took his seat the second day of the sessions.

‡ Succeeded on the sixth day of the sessions, by the Rev. George S. Woodhull.

§ Succeeded on the fifth day of the sessions, by Mr. John Skillman.

|| Succeeded on the last day of the sessions, by Mr. John Pool.

¶ Succeeded on the last day of the sessions, by the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin.

** Succeeded on the fifth day of the sessions, by Mr. Thomas Latimer.

†† Succeeded on the sixth day of the sessions, by the Rev. Thomas Grier.

‡‡ Took his seat on the second day of the sessions.

§§ Took his seat on the second day of the sessions.

|||| Took his seat on the third day of the sessions.

¶¶ Took his seat on the fourth day of the sessions.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. Dr. John McMillan, Rev. Elisha McCurdy, and Rev. James Hughes.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. Matthew Lyle.

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—The Rev. William Davis.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—The Rev. James Bowman.

PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—The Rev. Dr. James Hall.

GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.—The Rev. Dr. Joseph Strong, Rev. Moses Welch, and the Rev. Andrew Yates, produced a certificate of their appointment as delegates to represent that body in this Assembly; and accordingly took their seats as members.

Of the General Convention of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers in the State of Vermont, the Rev. Thomas A. Merril produced a certificate of his appointment, as a delegate to represent that body in this Assembly; and he took his seat as a member.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a Moderator and Temporary Clerk; and the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart was elected Temporary Clerk.

By order, the minutes of last Assembly were read.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Drs. McMillan and Hall, the Rev. Messrs. Romeyn, Carll, Finley, Lyle, Arthur, and Yates; and Messrs. Leverick, Gemmill, and Bayard, elders, be a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church, at 6 o'clock, to-morrow morning, and afterwards, on their own adjournments.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. William Harris, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Carlisle, and Mr. William Steele, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New York, and the Rev. John J. Christie, from the Presbytery of Albany, and Mr. William Whitely, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly as commissioners. Their commissions being read and approved, they took their seats as members.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Arthur and Davis be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

That Dr. Wilson and Mr. Inglis be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

That Messrs. Romeyn and Lewis be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

That Messrs. Hunter and Grant be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

That Messrs. Snodgrass and Nathan Woodhull be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

That Messrs. Riggs and McCurdy be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

That Messrs. Neill and Chapman be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly will, on next Monday morning, proceed to a free conversation on the state of religion within the limits of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer and other religious exercises; and that Drs. McKnight, Woodhull, and Strong, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

The delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the Convention of Vermont, reported,

That agreeably to his appointment, he attended through the whole of the sessions of that Convention, held at Middlebury, in September, 1807. That he was received and treated with cordiality and marked attention. That he was gratified in finding that the members of the Convention retained a high sense of the importance and usefulness of the connection existing between that body and the General Assembly. That in addition to their usual business, they entered with zeal on the subject of missions, and took measures to form a Missionary Society. That they appointed the Rev. Thomas A. Merrill, and in case of his failure, the Rev. Gershom C. Lyman, to attend the next General Assembly; and that the next Convention is to meet at Windsor, on the first Tuesday of September, 1808.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to meet with the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, and appropriate the interest of a certain sum of money in the hands of the said Trustees, reported,

That they met a committee of the Trustees, and directed that the sum of thirty-three dollars and eighty-one cents, one year's interest on the sum above referred to, should be appropriated to the use of Mr. Humphrey Perrine, a student in the College, who designs to study divinity.

The Rev. Messrs. David Comfort, and Isaac V. Brown, were appointed a committee to meet with the Trustees of the College of New Jersey on the last Wednesday in September next, to dispose of the interest that may be then due on moneys in the hands of said Trustees.

*Resolved*, That the following resolution of the last Assembly be renewed, And it was accordingly renewed.

1. *Resolved*, That the copies of the Confession of Faith printed in 1797, in the hands of Mr. Hathaway of Rome, be received by the Rev. Samuel F. Snowden of the Presbytery of Oneida, and disposed of by the said Presbytery, at such price as they shall think proper.

2. That those in the hands of Judge Hollenback, of Wilkesbarre, be received by the Rev. John B. Patterson, of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, and disposed of at such a price as they shall think proper.

3. That all other Presbyteries within whose bounds any copies of this edition of the Confession of Faith remain for sale, take such measures for the sale of them, and at such a price as they shall think proper; and that the proceeds of sale, in every case, be forwarded as speedily as possible to Isaac Snowden, Jun., the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That it be enjoined upon the several Presbyteries to which the above resolutions refer, to take measures that the amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, which have been adopted since that edition, be added to it in manuscript, and that any expenses incurred by said addition shall be defrayed by the Assembly.

The Presbyteries handed in their reports on the Commissioners' Fund, and Dr. McMillan, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Hopkins, were appointed a committee to examine and report on them.

The Synods of Albany, of New York and New Jersey, of Pittsburgh, and of the Carolinas, reported.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of Connecticut, reported,

That they all attended during the sessions of said Association, and were well received and treated with attention: that the churches of Connecticut appeared to be dwelling together in harmony, steadfastly adhering to sound doctrine: that the Association entered into a free conversation on the state of religion within their bounds, from which it appeared, that although some coldness and stupidity and error existed in some places, and an unusual number of the churches have, within the last year, been bereaved of their pastors by death; yet in many places religion has been revived, and the great Head of the church has visited and refreshed many parts of his vineyard with his gracious and effectual influences.

That the Association, as a missionary society, have the means, and appear to be making great exertions to diffuse the knowledge of the gospel in destitute parts of our country; that the business which came before the Association respected, in general, the local concerns of the churches within their bounds, to which they attended with great unanimity and despatch; that the Rev. Dr. Stephen Strong, and the Rev. Messrs. Moses C. Welch, and Andrew Yates, were appointed delegates to attend the next General Assembly; and that the next General Association is appointed to be held in the city of New London, on the third Tuesday in June, 1808, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

A number of copies of the printed extracts from the minutes of the General Association of Connecticut were presented to the Assembly, and distributed amongst the members.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Assembly be presented to the General Association for those copies.

A letter from the Second Presbytery of South Carolina, addressed to the Moderator, was received; in which they expressed much regret that for a number of years they have been unable to send a delegation to the Assembly. For this they mention a number of reasons, the principal of which is, their great distance from the place of the Assembly's meeting. They stated, however, that being convinced of the importance and advantage of paying a due attention to the judicatures of the church, they have determined to exert themselves in making such arrangements, as will enable them in future to secure a punctual representation in the Assembly; and that by next spring, they confidently hope to be able to forward materials for the history of the Presbyterian Church in their bounds.

With this letter, the Presbytery sent on their report to the Assembly.

Agreeably to a former order of the Assembly, the Presbyteries were called in the order of the roll to ascertain, whether they had severally performed their duty in endeavouring to raise a fund for the education of young men for the gospel ministry.

A considerable number of the Presbyteries reported on the subject.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

The business left unfinished in the forenoon, was resumed, and farther progress was made in calling upon the Presbyteries, on the subject of raising a fund for the education of young men for the ministry.

Agreeably to a standing rule, nominations for delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, and the Convention of Vermont were made.

*Resolved*, That the election be held to-morrow forenoon.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Simon Kollock, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Lewes, appeared in the Assembly as a commissioner. His commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

Agreeably to the resolution of the preceding session, the election was held for three delegates from this Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet in the city of New London, on the third Tuesday in June next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. John B. Romeyn, the Rev. Edward D. Griffin, and the Rev. Robert Finley, were declared duly elected to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut.

Agreeably to a resolution made at the same session, the election was held for a delegate to the General Convention of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers in the State of Vermont, to meet at Windsor, on the first Tuesday in September next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. Asa Hillyer was declared duly elected to attend the aforesaid convention; and the Rev. Nathan Woodhull was appointed his alternate.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish those delegates with attested copies of these minutes, which shall serve as their commissions.

The following appointments were made for supplying their pulpits during their absence on the delegation.

Mr. Coe was appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Romeyn the third Sabbath of June, and Dr. Nott the fourth Sabbath of June.

Mr. McDowell and Mr. Thompson were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpits of Mr. Griffin and Mr. Hillyer; and Mr. Hunter and Mr. Comfort a committee to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Finley.

*Resolved*, That the above-mentioned delegates receive each two dollars for every forty miles they shall necessarily travel, both in going to and returning from, the place of their respective destinations; and one dollar each, for every day they shall attend, respectively, the sessions of the Association and Convention.

The calling upon the Presbyteries on the subject of raising a fund for the education of young men for the ministry, was resumed and finished; and Dr. McKnight and Mr. Welch were appointed a committee to take the reports on the subject into consideration; to make a statement of the attention which the Presbyteries appeared to have paid to the business, and to specify, agreeably to the order of Assembly, those which by the vote of the house, were declared to have performed their duty.

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly an application from the Presbytery of Huntingdon for a division of their Presbytery.

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery make their application to the Synod to which they belong, being the most proper judicature to decide in the case.

The committee also overtured the following question, preferred by the First Presbytery of South Carolina, viz: Is it admissible for a gospel minister to hold a civil office?

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Presbytery be referred to the decision of the Assembly of 1806, on the same question.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. William Maffet, of the Presbytery of Baltimore, appeared in the Assembly and stated that he had neglected to bring his commission. Two commissioners from the same Presbytery certified that Mr. Maffet had been appointed by the Presbytery a commissioner to this Assembly.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Maffet be received as a member.

And he accordingly took his seat.

The Treasurer of the Trustees of the Assembly, agreeably to the act of incorporation, presented a copy of his accounts, as settled with the committee of the Trustees, and it was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

The Assembly, agreeably to the order of the day, proceeded to a free conversation on the state of religion. Messrs. Lyle, Merril, and Romeyn, were appointed a committee to digest and form the information which may be received on the subject, into a connected narrative, and lay it before the Assembly.

The members were called in the order of the roll.

After considerable progress made in the conversation, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The conversation on the state of religion was resumed and concluded. Accounts on this subject were received from all the Presbyteries represented in this Assembly, and from the delegates to the Assembly from the Association of Connecticut, and from the Convention of Vermont, who gave a general statement of the appearances of religion in the states in which they respectively reside, and also in part of the state of Massachusetts.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. John B. Romeyn for the missionary sermon, which by the appointment of that committee, he delivered the preceding evening.

The Committee of Missions appeared in the house, and made their first report.

Dr. McKnight, Mr. Finley, and Mr. Hughes, were appointed a committee to take, and carefully review this report, and select and report such articles as may require the attention of the Assembly.

Mr. Brewster resigned his seat to Mr. Thomas Latimer, the alternate mentioned in his commission; and Mr. Latimer took his seat as a member.

*Resolved*, That in addition to the existing regulations on the subject, the name of the Stated Clerk, and the place of his residence, be printed on the copy of the extracts to be forwarded by mail, and that the Presbyteries hereafter, or any member of Presbytery, give notice to the Stated Clerk of the conveyance by which their other extracts are to be forwarded.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, and the book was approved to page 122, inclusive.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, that the book evidences a laudable zeal to appear correct, and conformed to the standards of the Presbyterian Church; and that the records aforesaid ought to be approved to page 217 inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh reported. and the book was approved to page 48, inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas, reported, and they were approved to the close of the session held October 6th, 1806.

The committee appointed to digest and form the information received on the state of religion, into a connected narrative, made a report which was read in part by paragraphs.

Mr. Browne resigned his seat to Mr. John Skillman, the alternate mentioned in his commission; and Mr. Skillman was enrolled as a member.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Dr. Woodhull resigned his seat to the Rev. George S. Woodhull, the alternate mentioned in his commission; and Mr. Martin resigned his seat to the Rev. Thomas Grier, the alternate mentioned in his commission; and Mr. George S. Woodhull and Mr. Grier took their seats as members.

The reading by paragraphs of the narrative on the state of religion, was resumed; which having been corrected and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The General Assembly acknowledge, with ardent gratitude, the distinguished benignity of God to the churches within their bounds, during the year past. He hath truly done great things for us; building up the waste places of Zion, and adding unto the number of such as shall be saved. From every quarter, with but few exceptions, we hear of harmony among our ministers, order among our congregations, an increased attention to the ordinances of the gospel, and the progressing triumphs of that grace by which alone sinners can be reconciled to God. In many places, especially within the bounds of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord are experienced. The Spirit has been poured out on considerable portions of country; and fruits of righteousness have appeared, honourable to the kingdom of Christ, and inviting to the world which lieth in wickedness. Unhallowed combinations have been broken up; enemies to the cross have been confounded, and in many instances, made the subjects of divine grace.

It is observable that the work, though powerful, has progressed with great silence, uncommon solemnity, and free from all appearance of extravagance.

The revivals have been preceded in every instance, by a union of prayer among Christians; to which they have felt constrained by the fervent desire of their hearts that Christ might be glorified, and by deep and solemn impressions of the value of precious and immortal souls. Believing parents, more especially, have been influenced to wrestle with God in behalf of their children. We record with peculiar emotions of delight, for the encouragement of the godly, that as in all ages past, so still, our God is a hearer of prayer. He has come down from his high and holy place, and granted the request of his people. The consequences have been that the assemblies of the saints were crowded with inquiring sinners. Many meetings for prayer and praise have been established. It appears that, in several places, a number of persons have adopted the plan of assembling together on the Sabbath morning immediately before public worship, and spending some time in religious exercises, particularly in prayer for the divine presence and blessing in the public institutions of his worship. This, if properly managed, may prove a happy preparative for the worship of the sanctuary. We would, however, earnestly caution all who are under our care, against suffering public duties to interfere with the duties of the family and the closet.

Among the visible fruits of an increased attention to the gospel, we recognize the establishment of benevolent institutions, as peculiarly characteristic of the religion of Jesus. We mean associations for the relief of destitute widows and orphans, for the instruction of the ignorant in divine knowledge, and for the benefit of the poor generally. It is a distinguished excellence of the gospel of Christ, that it is suited to the poor; not merely to their afflicted condition, but to their intellectual acquirements: Christians can give no better evidence of their sincere attachment to the Lord who bought them, than by manifesting love not only to their brethren in Christ, but to mankind in general. The fruits of benevolence ought ever to accompany the profession of piety; and it is exclusively the glory of Christianity that it has produced every where, as far as its influence extends, effective plans to ameliorate the condition of the poor. We hope our brethren in all our churches will more fully testify, in this particular, the power of the grace of God.

In the southern parts of our bounds, the extraordinary revivals of religion have considerably declined; bodily agitations are gradually disappearing; in one instance, where extravagance and wild enthusiasm had been avowed and defended, in opposition to the pastoral advice of this body, we are happy to learn that the abettors have acknowledged their error, and returned to the good order of our Church.

Those who have been the subjects of this revival, persevere in the way of godliness, with but few exceptions. Apostasies are rare. Accessions to the communion are made on every occasion, though not in such numbers as formerly. Believers are still on the watch; disposed to pray, and actually praying for the spread of the gospel, and the triumphs of grace over all opposition.

In those districts of country, as well as in some others, the want of gospel ministers is severely felt. People are suffering for lack of instruction, and calling for help; but help, adequate to their necessities, cannot be obtained. The Assembly regret, that so few comparatively offer themselves as candidates for the holy ministry; and they hope that the attention of the churches under their care will be directed to this important subject, that by their united exertions some effectual plan, for statedly supplying the wants of Zion, may be formed.

With such abundant cause of gratitude, is connected cause of sorrow and humiliation. We have observed with pain, that in some Presbyteries the duties of family religion, and of catechetical instruction, are neglected. Truly it is shameful in men, who call themselves by the name of Christ, not to honour him before their families, by worshipping him statedly. Every head of a family is responsible for all its members to God and his country. How can he expect to fulfil his duty, if he does not pray for and with them, and instruct them from the word of God? If he does not honour God, it cannot be expected his *family* will. And a Christian family living without family religion, is a contradiction. It argues, on the part of such professors, an awful declension and a criminal dereliction of duty.

In many places, also, we have heard of lukewarmness and inattention to the great concerns of religion; of the profanation of the Sabbath by thoughtless sinners; and of decline in the life of godliness. How lamentable, that, with the light of the gospel shining around us, any should walk in darkness, and despise the goodness of God!

From our sister churches in Connecticut and Vermont, we learn with pleasure that revivals prevail there also; that religion flourishes; that, among other instances of mercy, Yale College is graciously visited; and that believers are walking in the comforts of the Holy Ghost.

On a review of the state of religion in the churches referred to above, we rejoice in saying that it has progressed in the last year, and that it is still progressing. This revives us in our pilgrimage, and causes us to look forward with pleasing expectations. The Redeemer will ultimately reign throughout the earth. 'His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun, and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.'

We only add, 'Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things; and blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen, and Amen.'"

The report of the Synod of Philadelphia not being present, the duplicate reports of the Presbyteries of which that Synod are composed were called for and read.

Mr. George S. Woodhull, Mr. Neill, and Mr. Galbraith, were appointed to receive the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, and report on them, agreeably to a standing rule of the Assembly.

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly a proposal for the appointment of a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer. On motion,

*Resolved*, That such a day be appointed.

And Dr. McMillan, and Messrs. Welch and Finley, were appointed to prepare an address on the subject, to be read to the congregations, stating the reasons for the appointment, and also to specify the day.

The committee also overtured this question: Has an elder, whom the discipline of our Church authorizes to sit as a member in Presbytery, from a vacant congregation, or united congregations, a right by that discipline, to sit in Synod as a representative of such congregation or congregations?

The vote being taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

A resolution was also overtured, That it be enjoined on the different Presbyteries to make a written report annually, on the state of religion within their bounds. And it was determined in the negative.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly the following question, "If a living child is born in five months and twenty days after the marriage of its parents, shall the parents be dealt with as guilty of ante-nuptial fornication?" On motion,

*Resolved*, That as said overture is *in thesi*, and decisions on questions of this nature must, in most instances, depend on attendant circumstances, that the Assembly do not judge it proper to decide on the abstract question.

It was also overtured, to amend the rule for the election of moderator and clerks. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the rule be not amended.

An overture was brought in, that a resolution be passed that the Assembly appoint a committee to compile and report two catechetical systems of religious instruction, in addition to the catechisms at present considered as part of the standards of our Church.

The vote being taken, the question was determined in the negative.

The Synod of Albany requested the Assembly to sanction a plan of union and correspondence between themselves and the Northern Associated Presbytery and the Middle Association, in the western district in the state of New York, which plan is contained in pages 117—121, of the Synodical minutes. The plan being read, and the subject discussed,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly sanction the aforesaid plan.

On motion, *Resolved*, That this Assembly will hold no election for Trustees of the Corporation.

Mr. Gemmill had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to make a minute, stating the attention which the Presbyteries, from their reports, appeared to have paid to the resolutions of the Assembly, in relation to selecting young men for the ministry, and providing a fund for their education, reported the following, which was adopted, viz:

It appeared that the Presbyteries of Columbia, Albany, Hudson, Long Island, New York, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Baltimore, Huntingdon, Redstone, Ohio, Hanover, First Presbytery of South Carolina, Orange, and Erie, had fully attended to the recommendations of the Assembly, and had done their duty in this respect.

That the Presbyteries of Oneida, Geneva, Carlisle, Lewes, and Concord, had not carried the recommendations of the Assembly into effect; but assigned such reasons for this as were satisfactory, and their conduct was approved. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly renew the earnest recommendations of the former Assembly to the Presbyteries, to pay all possible attention to this business, as promising much usefulness to the Church.

The Synodical report of the Synod of Virginia to the Assembly was handed to the Clerk and read.

The Synods that manage the missionary business were called upon to state, whether they had reported on this subject to the Committee of Missions. The Synod of Pittsburgh, and the Synod of the Carolinas stated, that they had reported. No accounts on the subject were received from the Synod of Virginia.

The Committee of Missions made their second report; and it was committed to the same committee to which the first was referred, and for the same purpose.

The Board of Trustees reported,

That agreeably to the direction of the last Assembly, on the 20th of June last, they affixed their seal to a contract agreed upon between the Committee of Missions and Mr. William P. Farrand, respecting the Assembly's Magazine.

The committee appointed on the Synodical and Presbyterial reports brought in their report, containing a compendious view of the Presbyterial reports, and it was accepted, and an order passed, that it be transcribed by the Stated Clerk into the book, procured for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Hall be exonerated from paying for three copies of the Confession of Faith which were lost, and thirty-six copies of Dr. Kollock's missionary sermon, which never came to hand; but with which he presumes he is charged; and the Trustees of the Corporation were required to settle with Dr. Hall accordingly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Smith had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to select the articles of the reports of the Committee of Missions, which require the attention of the Assembly, reported; and the report being read and amended, is as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly issue warrants on their Treasurer to pay the balances due for missionary services as follows; viz:

To Rev. Gideon Blackburn, $50.00. Rev. John Lindsley, 78.19. Rev. William Clark, 39.88. Mr. Bradford Marcy, 10.00. Mr. John Chavis, 66.67. Rev. Jedediah Chapman, 98.44. Rev. Robert H. Chapman, 30.33. Rev. James Mitchell, 59.91. Rev. William Wick, 33.34. Rev. Robert Stuart, 95.30. Rev. Samuel Finley, 30.58. Rev. John D. Perkins, 73.48. Rev. John H. Rice, 100.00. Rev. Stephen Thompson, 8.33.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly confirm the recommendations of the Committee of Missions, given the last year to the committee of the Trustees to direct warrants to be issued for the payment of the following sums, as hereafter specified, viz:

To the Synod of Pittsburgh, the additional sum allowed by the General Assembly, for the Sandusky Mission, $100; to Jane Aitken, for printing the regulations agreed on respecting churches on the frontiers, for the Committee of Missions, $7 50; to Jane Aitken, for paper, for printing the extracts, $42 75; to Jane Aitken, for binding copies of the Confession of Faith, $80; to Rev. George C. Potts, for attending at the General Association of Connecticut, 25 50; to Rev. John McDowell, for do., $17 50; to Rev. Thomas E. Hughes, for do., $25 50. Amount, $298 75.

The Committee of Missions submitted to the Assembly the expediency of making a standing rule, embracing the following case. "In case a missionary cannot fulfil his mission, but recommends another, and also proposes his being employed for a longer time." On motion,

*Resolved*, therefore, That in all such, or similar cases, the Committee of Missions exercise their own discretion, and report to this Assembly.

The committee appointed to select the articles in the report of the Committee of Missions, which require the attention of the Assembly, submitted the following resolutions with respect to missionaries, which were adopted.

1. *Resolved*, That the Rev. John Lindsley be appointed a missionary for four months; two of them to be spent in the counties of Steuben and Tioga, in the State of New York, and the remaining two in the settlements in the Holland Company's purchase, and to go as far as the town of Erie.

2. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Elisha McCurdy be employed for two months, to commence his route at French Creek, and thence proceed up the Allegheny on the west side, on the waters of Oil Creek, Brokenstraw, and Conawango; and thence upon the borders of Lake Erie.

3. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Samuel Finley be appointed a missionary for three months, within the bounds of the late Cumberland Presbytery.

4. *Resolved*, That the Rev. David Rice be employed within the bounds of the late Cumberland Presbytery, and such parts of the Miami country as he

may be able to visit; and that he be requested to employ in this service as much time as he can, not exceeding three months.

5. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Jeremiah Abel be appointed for three months, within the bounds of the late Cumberland Presbytery.

6. *Resolved*, That the Rev. James McGready be employed for three months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Transylvania, and in that part of the Washington Presbytery which lies in the State of Ohio.

7. *Resolved*, That the Rev. William Wick be appointed for two months, in New Connecticut.

8. *Resolved*, That the Rev. John H. Rice be employed for three months, as a missionary to the blacks in Charlotte county, Virginia, and parts adjacent.

9. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Gideon Blackburn be appointed for six months, as a missionary to the Cherokee Indians.

10. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Jedediah Chapman be employed for six months, and be left to his own discretion as to his route.

11. *Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Columbia be authorized to employ, at the expense of the General Assembly, one missionary (who may be a licentiate) for two months, between Skenesborough and the Canada line, including the county of St. Lawrence; and to send one of their members to act as a missionary for two months, on the same route, also at the expense of the General Assembly; and that the allowance for their services shall not exceed the customary allowance to missionaries, that is to say, thirty-three dollars and one-third of a dollar for each calendar month spent in the service.

12. *Resolved*, That the Presbytery of New Brunswick be authorized to employ, under the same conditions, one missionary for two months, in such parts of the State of New Jersey, as shall appear to them to have the greatest need of missionary labours.

13. *Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Philadelphia be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, in the vicinity of Philadelphia.

14. *Resolved*, That the missionaries employed by any Presbytery be commissioned by, and report to, the Committee of Missions; and that, in all cases, missionaries send on their reports so seasonably that they may be received by the committee as early as the first day of May.

15. *Resolved*, That five hundred dollars be appropriated for the use of the Hywassee Indian School, in the Cherokee country, for the current year.

16. *Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly pay, when the circumstances of the funds, during the present year, will admit, four hundred dollars to the Board of Trust of the Synod of Pittsburgh, for the support of the Indian mission under their care: and if it shall appear consistent with the state of the funds, after provision shall have been made to satisfy, generally, the other appropriations for missionary services, the trustees be authorized and directed to pay, upon the recommendation of the Committee of Missions, one hundred dollars more, toward promoting the important design above mentioned.

The Committee of Missions were authorized to employ two missionaries, for three months each, in the vicinity of Natchez; and two missionaries, one for two months, and the other for one month, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hanover, if to them it should seem expedient.

A petition from Messrs. Samuel McAdow, William McGee, and William Hodge, formerly members of the late Cumberland Presbytery, was handed in and read; and Drs. McKnight, Hall, and Wilson, were appointed a committee to prepare a letter in answer to said petition, and also a letter to the Synod of Kentucky.

Mr. Hopkins had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th,* 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to prepare an address on the appointment of a day of fasting, brought in their report, which, being read in part by paragraphs, was recommitted to Messrs. Finley and Bayard.

The committee on the Commissioners' Fund made their report, which being read, was adopted, and is as follows:

*Resolved,* That the following sums be paid as hereafter specified, viz:

To Mr. Higgins, $38. Mr. Neal, 42.80. Mr. Chapman, 39.46. Mr. Fairchild, 39.46. Mr. Romeyn, 33.33. Mr. Christie, 36.00. Mr. Lewis, 17.33. Mr. Grant, 18.80. Mr. Hopkins, 17.33. Dr. McKnight, 12.00. Dr. Milledoler, 12.00. Mr. Carll, 9.33. Mr. Riggs, 10.67. Mr. Little, 10.67. Mr. Angus, 9.33. Mr. Lindsley, 11.86. Mr. Steel, 10.66. Dr. Woodhull, 8.00. Mr. Martin, 10.00. Mr. Slemons, 20.00. Mr. Kollock, 18.66. Mr. Mc.-Daniel, 19.86. Mr. Stuart, 24.00. Mr. Wylie, 37.60. Mr. Galbraith, 36.80. Mr. Tait, 48.80. Mr. Wood, 46.66. Dr. McMillan, 40.00. Mr. McCurdy, 42.92. Mr. Hughes, 43.60. Mr. Davies, 88.00. Mr. Bowman, 66.66. Dr. Hall, 76.06. Mr. Russell, 8.00. Amount to be paid, $1004.65. Balance in favour of this Fund, 60.47.

The committee also reported the following statement of the Presbyteries which have paid this year into the Commissioners' Fund, together with the sums paid by each, viz:

Presbytery of Geneva, $10.52. Oneida, 42.31. Columbia, 35.65. Albany, 40.13. Hudson, 58.26. New York, 250.11. New Brunswick, 56.00. Philadelphia, 144.32. New Castle, 36.76. Carlisle, 33.00. Lewes, 10.00. Baltimore, 18.00. Huntingdon, 26.00. Redstone, 48.65. Erie, 24.26. Ohio, 92.47. First Presbytery of South Carolina, 28.06. Presbytery of Orange, 44.50. Concord, 50.00. Union, 20.00. Balance of last year in hand, 1.11. Total, 1070.11. Deduct a counterfeit five dollar note, received in the collection from New Brunswick Presbytery. Sum to be distributed, $1065.11.

The committee farther reported, that, although the plan of collections for the Commissioners' Fund had not gone into universal operation, yet such collections were made and paid into the treasury, as showed that the measure was generally approved by the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Assembly; but that the Presbytery of Carlisle had agreed to support their own commissioners, and pay into the fund as they may, from time to time, be able; and the Presbytery of Hanover had agreed to support their own commissioners, but to pay nothing into the fund.

The following persons were chosen, and appointed to serve as a standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia and the vicinity, Dr. Blair, Dr. Green, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Janeway, Mr. Potts, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Boudinot, Mr. Hazard, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Haslett, and Mr. Robert Smith:

Of the Synod of Albany, the Rev. Jonas Coe:

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, the Rev. Edward D. Griffin:

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, the Rev. Robert Cathcart:

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, the Rev. James Hughes:

Of the Synod of Virginia, the Rev. Conrad Speece:

Of the Synod of Kentucky, the Rev. James Blythe:

Of the Synod of the Carolinas, the Rev. William C. Davis.

The Assembly having elected their Standing Committee of Missions for the present year, did, and hereby do, enjoin it on those members of said committee who live at a distance from the place where the committee meet, to communicate to the committee in writing, any information on the subject of missions, which they may suppose to be useful, and especially within the bounds of that Synod to which these distant members may severally belong.

On motion, *Resolved*, That it be a standing order of the General Assembly for the direction of the Trustees of the Assembly, and the standing Committee of Missions, that the missionaries severally be allowed a month's compensation in advance, when the time for which they are severally employed shall exceed a month.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, Dr. Wilson, and Mr. Alexander, were appointed a committee to select the extracts of the minutes of this Assembly proper to be printed.

The committee appointed to prepare letters, addressed to the former members of the late Presbytery of Cumberland, and the Synod of Kentucky, made their report, which being read, and in part amended, was recommitted to Drs. McKnight and McMillan, and Mr. Lyle.

Mr. Maffet had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Mr. Bayard resigned his seat to Mr. John Pool, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Pool took his seat as a member.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Dr. Wilson resigned his seat to the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, the principal mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Irwin took his seat as a member.

The committee to whom was recommitted the address on the subject of a fast, made their report, which, being read, was recommitted to Messrs. Irwin, Hunter, and Finley.

Mr. Grant had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

Mr. Alexander resigned his appointment as one of the committee to superintend the printing of the Assembly's Magazine, and Mr. Janeway was appointed in his place.

The committee to whom was recommitted the business mentioned in the preceding session in relation to the late members of the Presbytery of Cumberland, and to the Synod of Kentucky, made their report, which, being read, was adopted, and is as follows:

*Resolved*, That the letter to the Synod of Kentucky, before submitted to the Assembly, be laid aside, and the measure of addressing any thing at present to that body, be dismissed; but that the following letter be transmitted to the former members of the late Presbytery of Cumberland, viz:

"*Dear Brethren:*—We have received your address, and have carefully marked its contents. We are glad to discern your regard to the order of the Church in not constituting yourselves into a Presbytery.

In your letter you seem to expect the Assembly to adopt measures which do not belong to them, and to afford you relief in a case which is not constitutionally in their power.

Had the matter in which you are concerned come before a former Assembly, in the form of an appeal to them from the proceedings and decisions of the Synod of Kentucky, and their commission, they could have taken it up judicially, and afforded you all that relief to which you should have appeared entitled. This not having been the case, reduced the Assembly to the necessity of adopting the only alternative which was in their power, namely, that of advice and persuasion.

The business is not before the present Assembly in any circumstances more favourable for granting you that relief which you solicit. As the case now stands, the Synod of Kentucky are the only constitutional body competent to your relief. To them we would again recommend to you to apply. We know of no way in which the matter can be regularly brought before the General Assembly, so as to enable them to act upon it, but by your applying to the Synod to review their proceedings, and to reverse what is wrong in them; and in case they either refuse to review, or rectify them, you know it is your privilege to appeal to the General Assembly, who will then be empowered to act judicially upon it. And, brethren, we beg leave to remind you, that divisions of this nature are not to be healed, or union and peace restored, unless the parties respectively divesting themselves of partialities and prejudices, and yielding to the benign influence of truth and grace, are mutually disposed candidly to acknowledge and retract their errors and mistakes.

We are disposed to hope and believe that, from what has been suggested, you will readily excuse the Assembly for not extending to you that relief for which you have applied; and that you will be exceedingly cautious of taking any such steps as would tend to increase alienation, and to render the breach irreparable."

*Resolved*, That the usual number of the extracts of the last year be forwarded to the General Association of Connecticut, and the Convention of Vermont, by the delegates appointed to attend those bodies; and that the Stated Clerk take care to transmit, as soon as convenient, an equal number of the extracts of this year to the said Association and Convention.

Mr. Carll had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to whom was referred the address on the subject of a fast, made their report, which, being read by paragraphs, was adopted, and is as follows:

"Whereas, it is the duty of all Christian churches, families, and people, of every description, either suffering under the adverse dispensations of Divine Providence, or being threatened with them, to humble themselves before Almighty God, to implore his mercy and protection; and whereas, our country appears to be threatened with great calamities:

*Resolved*, therefore, That it be recommended, and it is hereby earnestly recommended to the churches under the care of this Assembly, to set apart the second Thursday of September next, as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, to beseech the Ruler of the Universe, that, for Christ's sake, he would be pleased to avert the calamities with which we are threatened; that he would restore harmony to the contending nations of the world; that he would pour out of his Spirit on our churches more generally and abundantly; bless the efforts that are making to christianize the heathen, and to extend the blessings of the gospel to the destitute inhabitants of our land.

'Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger?' Who can tell whether He who holds the destinies of men in his hands, and who turns the hearts of the rulers of the earth, as the rivers of water are turned, will hear the supplications of his people? Let us then humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. Let us turn every one from his evil ways, and from the wickedness of his hands. To the great

Head of the Church, let us raise our united hearts and voices, for his choicest blessings on our country and the world at large.

Soon may the heathen be given to him for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. Soon may the descendants of faithful Abraham be brought into the fold of our common Lord, that there may be one sheepfold and one Shepherd."

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk for his services, agreeably to the rate fixed by the Assembly of 1806, and also for the stationery furnished by him for the use of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue a warrant for the payment of sixteen dollars to Joseph Jacobs, for eight days' service rendered the Assembly, during the present sessions.

The roll being called agreeably to a standing rule, it appeared that Mr. Brisben had left the Assembly without leave; and the Stated Clerk was directed to transmit his name to the Presbytery of New Castle.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, therefore, dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution. Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1808.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Geneva, | 9 | 3 | 10 | 151 | $ 17 |
| Oneida, | 7 | — | 10 | 280 | 80 |
| Columbia, | 10 | 1 | 15 | 796 | 144 |
| Albany | 9 | — | 13 | 913 | 120 |
| Hudson, | 11 | 1 | 22 | 705 | 125 |
| Long Island, | 14 | 2 | 16 | 548 | 100 |
| New York, | 25 | 5 | 21 | 2789 | 1392 |
| New Brunswick, | 21 | 1 | 32 | 2218 | 641 |
| Philadelphia, | 16 | — | 24 | 1551 | 188 |
| New Castle, | 20 | — | 34 | 1181 | 145 |
| Carlisle, | 18 | 5 | 29 | 2513 | 231 |
| Baltimore, | 8 | — | 9 | 385 | 131 |
| Lewes. No report. | | | | | 86 |
| Huntingdon, | 14 | — | 36 | 768 | — |
| Redstone. No report. | | | | | |
| Ohio, | 26 | 5 | 64 | 2953 | 92 |
| Erie, | 15 | 3 | 60 | 1158 | — |
| Orange, | 13 | 6 | 39 | 465 | — |
| Concord, | 15 | 1 | 36 | — | — |
| 1st, South Carolina, | 16 | — | 31 | 549 | 28 |
| 2d, do. | 9 | — | 23 | 659 | — |
| Union, | 9 | — | — | 364 | — |
| Hopewell, No report. | | | | | |
| Hanover, | 11 | 1 | 9 | 320 | 98 |
| Winchester, | 7 | — | 15 | — | — |
| Lexington, | 13 | 3 | 28 | — | — |
| Total, | 317 | 37 | 576 | 21,270 | $4,618 |

# 1809.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 18*th*, 1809.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and was opened by the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from Matthew xxiv. 45–47, inclusive. "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he shall make him ruler over all his goods."

After prayer, the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. Dirck C. Lansing.

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Andrew Oliver.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Dr. Samuel Blatchford. Mr. Thomas Bassel, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Simon Hosack. Mr. Alexander Kelly, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. John Johnson.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Rev. John B. Romeyn, Rev. Gershom Williams, Rev. Thomas Picton, and Rev. Stephen Thompson. Messrs. Amos Harrison, Charles Clark, and Benjamin Core, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Jonathan Hunting. Mr. Jeremiah Hunting, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Joseph Clark, Rev. Robert Finley, Rev. David Barclay, and Rev. John Cornell. Messrs. Moses Scott, Benjamin Smith, and Samuel Bayard, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Dr. William M. Tennent, and Rev. William Latta. Messrs. John McMullin, and John Mann, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Nathan Grier, Rev. John E. Latta, and Rev. James Magraw. Messrs. Samuel Barr, Leonard Vandergrift, Amos Slaymaker, and Joseph McClure, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, Rev. Robert Cathcart, Rev. Robert Kennedy, Rev. Alexander Boyd. Messrs. William Harris, and John Creigh, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—The Rev. Joseph Copes. Mr. Samuel Smith, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. James Inglis. Mr. John C. Vowell, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. Thomas Hood. Mr. John Buyers, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. Joseph Stockton, and Rev. Robert Johnson.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. Joseph Anderson, and Rev. William Woods. Mr. Robert Laughlin, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. Drury Lacey.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—The Rev. James K. Burch.

PRESBYTERY OF WASHINGTON—The Rev. James Hoge.

PRESBYTERY OF LANCASTER—The Rev. John Wright.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST LEXINGTON—The Rev. Robert Stuart, and Rev. John Lyle.

PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—The Rev. Thomas Cleland.

Of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, and the Rev. Bezaleel Pinneo, produced a certificate of their appointment as delegates to represent that body in this Assembly; and accordingly took their seats as members.

Of the General Convention of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers in the State of Vermont, the Rev. John Hough produced a certificate of his appointment, as a delegate to represent that body in this Assembly; and he took his seat as a member.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a Moderator and Temporary Clerk; when the Rev. Drury Lacey was duly chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart was elected Temporary Clerk.

Mr. Samuel Barr, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Castle, stated that he had forgot to bring his commission, sent him by the Presbytery; but having produced one attested by their Stated Clerk, and several members of the Presbytery certifying that he had been appointed as a commissioner to this Assembly, it was on motion,

*Resolved*, That he be received as a member.

And he accordingly took his seat.

By order, The minutes of the last session were read.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Blatchford, and Messrs. Romeyn, Pinneo, Grier, Anderson and Hoge; and Messrs. Harrison, Slaymaker, Vowell, and Bayard, elders, be a committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Clark and Magraw be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Inglis and William Latta be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Finley and Anderson be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Davidson and Mr. Picton be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Milledoler and Mr. Copes be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly will, on the next Monday morning, proceed to a free conversation on the state of religion within the limits of the General Assembly, and also within the confines of the General Association of Connecticut, and of the Convention of Vermont.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer and other religious exercises; and that Dr. Tennent, and Messrs. Grier, and Hosack, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 19*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Daniel Crane, commissioner from the Presbytery of Hudson, and Mr. John Connelly, commissioner from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, appeared in the Assembly. Their commissions being read they took their seats as members.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of the State of Connecticut, reported; and their report is as follows, viz:

"The undersigned, two of your delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, in the good providence of God, repaired at the time appointed to New London, the place of meeting. Their reception by the brethren in the ministry was kind and affectionate, and the whole of their treatment during their stay marked with hospitality and attention.

The Association appear cordially disposed to maintain, with care and assiduity, the connection which subsists between their body and that to which we belong. That connection we believe to be of growing importance to the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, as well as to the personal satisfaction and pleasure of the ministers themselves, belonging to both denominations.

The business transacted by the Association was of a local nature, and finished with commendable order and appropriate harmony among the members. An address, to revive gospel discipline among their churches, was adopted, and directed to be published. The fruits of this will be, we hope, soon visible, and of such a nature as to answer the views of the body. We rejoice in informing you, that, from the statements given by the members present, the state of religion within the bounds of the General Association is prosperous. Revivals have taken place in conspicuous and commanding stations, and in others are beginning. The work, in all its forms, is evidently of God, and manifests his faithfulness to his own cause, as well as rich mercy to poor sinners. We cannot help hoping that a soil like this, watered with the prayers of a godly race, who settled here to enjoy pure religion and undefiled, with none to molest them, must produce fruit abundantly, in the conversion and salvation of their descendants of the present day.

The missionary business is still carried on with spirit and success. The Society have been enabled to do much for the cause of truth in sending forth preachers, and through them organizing churches. Their zeal seems undiminished, and the field for their exertions is wide. We pray for their prosperity, and most cordially bid them, in their good work, God speed.

Edward Griffin,
John B. Romeyn.

*New London*, *June* 23*d*, 1808.

A number of the printed extracts from the minutes of the General Association of Connecticut were presented by Dr. Dwight in the name of the Association, to the Assembly, and were distributed among the members.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to the Association for these copies; and that the usual number of the extracts from the minutes of this Assembly be transmitted to the Association of Connecticut, and to the Convention of Vermont.

The delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Convention in the State of Vermont, reported, and his report is as follows:

"The undersigned delegate, appointed by the last General Assembly to attend the General Convention of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers of the State of Vermont, begs leave to report, that agreeably to his appointment, he attended the sessions of the Convention, at Windsor, in September last; that he was received with great cordiality, and treated with much respect and brotherly affection. That the Convention profess to be highly gratified with the intercourse established between them and the Assembly, and to believe that it has been, and may continue to be, productive of much good.

Your delegate farther reports, with much pleasure, that the Convention are making great exertions to establish and preserve the order and harmony of their churches, and to support and extend evangelical piety: that they have organized a missionary society, and are making laudable exertions in the missionary business: they employed nine missionaries the last year: they contemplated at their last meeting the establishment of a magazine and a tract society, the object of which should be to disseminate religious intelligence and evangelical truth. Your delegate was particularly gratified in learning that, in a State comparatively small, and so recently settled, there were sixty-four associated ministers; that all of them, except nine, had pastoral charges, and that they had sixteen licensed candidates.

During their sessions, the Convention spent part of a day in free conversation on the state of religion in their churches, from which it appeared that evangelical truth was gaining ground; that, in a number of places, there were special revivals; and that there were several remarkable instances of the triumph of gospel grace over infidel and licentious principles. It appeared, indeed, to be a time of great expectation among the members of the Convention. Your delegate thinks it his duty, to add, that, from the information he received, he has a full conviction that, at present, there is no part of the Church of Christ in which 'the gospel of the grace of God,' is more faithfully or more successfully preached than in the bounds of the Convention of Vermont. All which is respectfully submitted,

Asa Hillyer."

The Presbyteries in whose hands there were remaining some copies of the Confession of Faith, &c.; printed in 1797, were called upon to account for them.

The Rev. Samuel F. Snowden, of the Presbytery of Oneida, reported, that the Presbytery had received forty-three copies from Mr. Hathaway, for which they would account when sold. Mr. Snowden also stated, that Mr. Hathaway had engaged to account for the seven remaining of the fifty, which he had originally received; that, however, he had not yet fulfilled his engagement.

A report from the Presbytery of Huntingdon was received, stating that agreeably to the order of the last Assembly, they had authorized Mr. Patterson to receive the copies that had been in the hands of Mr. Hollenback, and that measures had been adopted by the Presbytery to dispose of them.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries which still have copies of the Confession of Faith remaining in their hands, for which they are accountable to the Assembly, persevere in the disposal of them, and account as soon as convenient.

The Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, appeared in the Assembly, but not having his commission, it was certified by commissioners from the same Presbytery, that he was the alternate mentioned in the commission given to Mr. Edwards; and Mr. Edwards not being present, the Assembly agreed to receive Dr. Green as a member, and he accordingly took his seat.

The Synodical reports from the Synods of Albany, of New York and New Jersey, of Philadelphia, of Pittsburgh, of Kentucky, and of Virginia, were read in connection with the duplicate Presbyterial reports, so far as the latter were different from the former.

No Synodical report from the Synod of the Carolinas being received, the duplicate reports, which had been forwarded from three Presbyteries within the bounds of said Synod, were read.

Dr. Milledoler, Messrs. Inglis, and William Latta, were appointed a committee to take these reports, and to select from them articles necessary to be inserted in the compendious view of Presbyterial reports. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the committee annually appointed to prepare the result of the reports of Synods and Presbyteries for entrance in the book kept by the Stated Clerk for that purpose, do carefully compare the statement of moneys in said reports with the accounts of the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Assembly, that all errors or omissions may be carefully corrected before the entry be made by the Stated Clerk.

Whereas, from a variety of causes, the reports from Synods and Presbyteries to the General Assembly are sometimes not brought forward to the meetings of the Assembly, and it is of much importance that these reports should be complete, the General Assembly did, and hereby do, renewedly enjoin it on all the Synods and Presbyteries under their care, to be very attentive both in seeing that these reports are accurately and seasonably prepared, agreeably to the prescribed forms, and in sending them forward annually to the Assembly; but if by any accident there be a failure in this respect by any Synod or Presbytery, such Synod or Presbytery shall, as soon as the failure is discovered, forward the deficient report by letter to the Stated Clerk of the Assembly, that its results may be entered in the book prepared for that purpose; and thus the design of the Assembly, to obtain and preserve, from year to year, a complete view of their churches, may be accomplished. And to secure a due attention to this important object, it is hereby enjoined on every Presbytery, annually to inquire of the commissioners to the Assembly, at their first meeting after the rising of the Assembly, whether the annual report of that Presbytery was laid before the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That there be annually appointed a Committee of Reports, to which shall be referred all reports from Presbyteries and Synods; and of this committee it shall be the duty to compare the reports of the Synods with the reports from the Presbyteries, digest the whole and read them to the Assembly, and also make a statement of the Synods and the Presbyteries which shall have neglected to report.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Stephen Bovell, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Abingdon, appeared in the Assembly; and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The Rev. Samuel Bell, a commissioner from the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly; but not having his commission, it was certified by commissioners from the same Presbytery, that he is the alternate mentioned in the commission given to Mr. Burton; and Mr. Burton not being present, the Assembly agreed to receive Mr. Bell as a member, and he accordingly took his seat.

Agreeably to a standing rule, nominations for delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, and the Convention of Vermont, were made, and it was agreed that the election be held on Tuesday morning next.

The Synods, which manage the missionary business, were called upon to state whether they had reported on this subject to the Committee of Missions; but no account was received from any of them.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. John Mann resigned his seat to Mr. Stephen Miller, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Miller took his seat as a member.

The Presbytery of Hartford being informed that Mr. Joshua Bier, a licentiate under their care, is appointed on a mission by the missionary society of Connecticut; agreed to apply to the General Assembly, to direct them to ordain him for this purpose, expecting that it will have a tendency to extend his usefulness. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery be authorized, and they hereby are authorized, if they see their way clear, to ordain Mr. Bier, and set him apart to the work of the gospel ministry.

The Assembly took into consideration a letter from the Synod of Kentucky, and having carefully reviewed the same, and having also read another letter from their records, which by accident was detained from the last Assembly, were of opinion that the Synod have in these letters exercised their unquestionable right of explaining their proceedings; which they have done in a respectful and able manner, and to the full satisfaction of this Assembly; and the Assembly think it due to that Synod to say, that they deserve the thanks of the church for the firmness and zeal, with which they have acted in the trying circumstances in which they have been placed.

Ordered, That an authentic copy of this minute be given to the members of the Assembly, from the Synod of Kentucky, to be by them laid before said Synod as the answer to their letter.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky reported, and the book was approved, a few inaccuracies excepted, to page 165.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey reported, and the book was approved to page 228.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany reported, and the book was approved to page 148.

The Presbyteries were called upon to state the sum which they had respectively collected for the Commissioners' Fund; and Messrs. Barclay, Kennedy, and Bassel, were appointed a committee to take the several statements, and to report upon them agreeably to a standing rule of the Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. John Glendy, of the Presbytery of Baltimore, and Mr. John Alexander, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Lexington, appeared in the Assembly, as commissioners; and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The Committee of Overtures brought in an overture for the appointment of a day to be set apart for thanksgiving and prayer. The overture being read, was laid on the table for the future consideration of this Assembly.

The Assembly, agreeably to the order of the day, proceeded to a free conversation on the state of religion. Messrs. Clark, Hough, Stuart, and Dr. Milledoler, were appointed a committee to digest and form the information which may be received on the subject, into a connected narrative, and lay it before the Assembly. The members were called in the order of the roll, and entered freely and fully into the subject.

Dr. Green resigned his seat to the Rev. David Edwards, the principal mentioned in their commission, which Mr. Edwards laid on the table, and he was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

After considerable progress made in the conversation on the state of religion, the Assembly adjourned till four o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Four o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Dr. Tennent resigned his seat to the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, the principal mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Irwin was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

The conversation on the state of religion was resumed; and after some progress made in the subject, the Assembly adjourned till nine o'clock tomorrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Bell resigned his seat to Rev. John Burton, the principal mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Grier resigned his seat to Rev. John D. Perkins, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Messrs. Burton and Perkins were received as members, and accordingly took their seats.

The Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly, agreeably to the act of incorporation, presented a copy of his annual accounts, as settled with the committee of the Trustees; and it was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly a request from the Presbytery of Union, to be separated from the Synod of the Carolinas.

On motion, *Resolved,* That the consideration of this request be referred to the next Assembly; as it does not satisfactorily appear to this Assembly, to what Synod the Presbytery wished to be annexed.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk forward to the Presbytery of Union an attested copy of this minute.

The committee also overtured a request from the Presbytery of Hartford, for a revision of the act of the Assembly of 1792, in relation to travelling clergymen.

The overture was read, and laid on the table for the future consideration of this Assembly.

The committee also laid before the Assembly an overture from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, for the establishment of a theological school.

The overture was read, and the Rev. Dr. Dwight, and the Rev. Messrs. Irwin, Hosack, Romeyn, Anderson, Lyle, Burch, Lacey, and Messrs. Bayard, Slaymaker, and Harrison, elders, were appointed a committee to take the overture into consideration, and report upon it.

On motion, *Resolved,* That the Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. Robert Finley, for the missionary sermon, which, by the appointment of the committee, he had preached the preceding evening.

The conversation on the state of religion was resumed and concluded. Accounts on the subject were received from all the Presbyteries represented in this Assembly; and also from the delegates from the Association of Connecticut, and the Convention of Vermont, who gave a general statement of the appearances of religion in the states in which they respectively reside. Dr. Dwight, in his statement, gave also a succinct view of the general state of religion in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and the District of Maine.

The Committee of Missions appeared in the house, and made considerable progress in their first report.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*Four o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. McMullin resigned his seat to Mr. James Stuart, the alternate mentioned in their commission; and Mr. Stuart was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

The Committee of Missions resumed and finished their report; and Messrs. Glendy, Boyd, and Charles Clark, were appointed a committee to take, and carefully review this report, and select and report to the Assembly such articles as may require their attention.

Agreeably to the order of the day, the election was held for three delegates from this Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet in Lebanon, the third Tuesday in June next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. Drs. Samuel S. Smith, and James P. Wilson, and the Rev. Gershom Williams, were declared duly elected delegates to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut.

It being also the order of the day, an election was held for a delegate to attend the General Convention of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers in the State of Vermont, to meet at Rutland, the first Tuesday in September next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Blatchford was declared duly elected to attend the aforesaid Convention, and the Rev. Zachariah Green was chosen his alternate.

*Resolved*, That the delegates be allowed the compensation which had been fixed by a former Assembly.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish those delegates with attested copies of the above minutes, which shall serve as their commissions.

The following appointments were made for supplying their pulpits during their absence on their delegation:

The Rev. Nathaniel Irwin was appointed to supply the pulpit of Dr. Wilson, the third Sabbath in June; and the Rev. Nathaniel Todd, to supply the fourth Sabbath in June.

The Rev. Dr. Uzel Ogden was appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Williams, the third Sabbath in June; and the Rev. Samuel Whelpley, the fourth Sabbath in June.

The Rev. Messrs. Jonas Coe and Robert H. Chapman were appointed to supply the pulpit of Dr. Blatchford, each one Sabbath.

Mr. Vandegrift had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Agreeably to a standing rule of the Assembly, the Presbyteries were called in the order of the roll, to ascertain whether they had severally performed their duty in inquiring after poor and pious young men, who may promise usefulness in the gospel ministry, and are willing to devote themselves to it, and in raising a fund for their education.

Messrs. Romeyn and Bayard were appointed a committee to take the reports received on the subject, and make a statement of the attention which the Presbyteries appeared to have paid to the business, and to bring in a minute specifying, agreeably to the order of a former Assembly, those Presbyteries which, by the vote of the house, were declared to have performed their duty, and those which were declared delinquent.

Dr. Wilson sent in his resignation of his appointment as delegate to the General Association of Connecticut, and it being accepted, nominations were made for a delegate to supply his place, and it was agreed that the election be held in the afternoon.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of the Trustees be requested and authorized to furnish three copies of the Confession of Faith, and Church Discipline, and one copy of the printed Extracts, for the use of the Assembly.

The committee appointed to digest and form the information received on the state of religion, in a connected narrative, brought in their report, which was read, and being amended, was recommitted to the same committee.

The committee of arrangements for the concert prayer, reported, and their report was accepted.

The committee appointed to make a minute, stating the attention which the Presbyteries, from their reports, appeared to have paid to the resolutions of the Assembly in relation to the selection of young men for the ministry, and providing a fund for their education, made the following report, which was adopted, viz :

" That it appeared from the vote of the Assembly, that the Presbyteries of Geneva, Oneida, Columbia, Albany, Hudson, New York, Long Island, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Huntingdon, Erie, Ohio, Hanover, West Lexington, Orange, Transylvania, and Lancaster, had fully attended to the recommendations of the Assembly, and had done their duty in this respect.

That the Presbyteries of Carlisle, Lewes, Baltimore, and Washington, had not carried the recommendations of the Assembly into effect, but had assigned such reasons as were satisfactory to the Assembly, and their conduct was therefore approved; and that the Presbytery of Abingdon be considered as having neglected the recommendations on the subject."

The narrative on the state of religion was again brought in, and being read, was approved, and is as follows, viz :

" The General Assembly once more approach the churches under their care, that they may lay before them a condensed narrative of the state of religion within their bounds.

The dealings of God with us, brethren, during the past year, call for renewed emotions of wonder, love, and praise. He has not left himself without a witness among us; the east, the west, the north, and the south, can testify; for in them all his stately footsteps may be seen. In answer to the prayers of his people he has come down like dew upon the mown grass, and like showers that water the earth, and we are happy to state that his glory is yet passing before us, and that his power and grace are still displayed in the conviction and conversion of sinners, as well as in building up his people in their most holy faith. These are the great outlines of our situation, to the more particular description of which we now call your attention.

It is with peculiar pleasure, then, that we state, that peace and harmony, so ornamental and necessary to the Christian Church, have prevailed in the past year, with but few exceptions, throughout our bounds; that the worship of God has been generally and respectfully attended in our churches; that the distinguishing doctrines of grace have been well received, and, in many instances, have been attended with great and visible success. Although from the great extent of late revivals, and the numbers received into our Church, there was reason to fear that many tares were interspersed with the harvest, yet we are happy to state that instances of apostasy have seldom occurred.

The leading features that have characterized our churches during the last year, have, we apprehend, been a growing thirst for divine knowledge, and an increased attachment to the distinguishing doctrines of grace. Family visitation and the catechetical instruction of our beloved youth, have doubtless contributed, in a great degree, to excite as well as to satisfy, this desire. We are happy to state that catechetical instruction has been attended to during the last year, with perhaps greater assiduity than has ever been witnessed among us; and we are persuaded that its results will be highly favourable to the dearest interests of the Church of God in our country. Deeply impressed with the conviction that holiness becometh his house for ever, the churches of Christ have turned their attention, with increasing care, to the support of a wise and salutary discipline. Societies for diffusing evangelical truth have been organized, and are now in operation. Bibles and small religious tracts have been extensively distributed. Praying societies, formerly established, have been maintained, whilst many new ones have been added. These institutions, by calling into exercise the latent gifts and graces of the people of God, in an essential part of his worship, as well as in promoting zeal and brotherly love, have served as nurseries of the Church, and have produced, and are producing, almost incredible effects upon the moral and religious state of the community.

The Presbytery of Long Island has experienced a very general revival from the presence of the Lord. The Presbyteries of Albany and Hudson, in some of their congregations, have been visited with divine influence from on high; while a large district of East Jersey, as well as its extreme in the west, has known, or is learning to know, the Almighty power of God. Acknowledged infidels, and practical unbelievers, who so lately eyed the cross with malignity, and its adherents with contempt, are now seen in considerable numbers, clothed, and in their right minds, at the feet of Jesus; whilst the poor, dissipated prodigal, who so lately was a burthen to himself and to the world, is seen returning to his father's house, or already encircled in his father's arms. Those parts of the Church which were favoured with revivals in former years, appear to be securing the advantages they have gained, and to be gathering in the gleanings of the vintage; whilst bodily agitations, where they had appeared, have almost wholly subsided, and have given place to calm inquiry into the great and leading doctrines of the gospel.

The Assembly have observed with pleasure that the various missions under their direction, have been prosecuted with exemplary diligence and fidelity, and with a measure of success calculated to rejoice the hearts of those who have contributed of their worldly substance to the support of this great object, and to engage them to a continuance of their liberality. Through the instrumentality of these missions, not only a large population of our own citizens, who would otherwise remain almost wholly destitute of the gospel, have its doctrines and ordinances dispensed among them; but several Indian tribes have the invaluable blessings of civilization and the Christian religion brought within their reach; and the unhappy children of Africa are also greeted with those glad tidings of salvation to which, in a Christian country, they have a peculiar claim.

But whilst events of a prosperous nature are recounted with pleasure, it is the duty of this Assembly to inform the churches, that circumstances have occurred of an opposite description, and such as ought to be considered as highly calamitous and distressing. They have learned with regret, that, whilst some parts of our country have recently been supplied with a gospel ministry, and the regular administration of ordinances, others, in these respects, are in an exceedingly destitute situation. 'The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few;' pray ye, brethren, 'the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.' In a portion of country of some extent, embraced within the bounds of the Synod of Kentucky, we are sorry to learn that a spirit of fanaticism, propagating the most palpable errors, as well as insubordination to the constituted authorities of our Church, has greatly prevailed. In consequence of this, some of our congregations have been torn by intestine divisions, and are yet bleeding at every pore. The Assembly conceive that they cannot do justice to their own feelings on this occasion, or to the cause of Christ, without noticing, in terms of high disapprobation, so ruinous a departure from duty; they hold out at the same time the hand of conciliation to their erring brethren, and invite a speedy return to the good order and discipline of our Church.

In addition to the above, the Assembly have heard with pain of the prevalence, in some parts of our bounds, of a form of religion without its power, as well as of vice and immorality. Lukewarmness, detested by the Head of the Church; intemperance, ingulphing every social and domestic virtue; an awful profanation of the Sabbath; sports and unlawful games, like so many ensigns of death, have appeared, assailing the kingdom of Christ and strengthening the empire of his foes. Whilst we are undoubtedly called to mourn over these evils, we are equally called to counteract them; 'the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God,' and shall finally prevail. 'For Zion's sake, therefore, will we not hold our peace, and for Jerusalem's sake we will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.'

From the accounts received from our sister churches of Connecticut and Vermont, it appears that the great Head of the Church has manifested toward them, during the last year, the most signal interpositions of divine love and mercy. Yale College has been visited, and a number of her sons have been hopefully gathered into the bosom of the Church. Many towns and villages, in both of these States, have felt, in a very uncommon degree, the power of sovereign grace, and accessions to their communion have been exceedingly numerous. Infidelity is confounded, or retires from the public eye. Characters distinguished by talents, learning, morals, and property, have been led publicly to profess themselves the disciples of our Lord. A knowledge of the holy Scriptures is diffusing itself far and wide. We are also informed, that distinguished revivals of religion have existed in several parts of Massachusetts, and that hopeful appearances have also begun in New Hampshire, and in the district of Maine.

On a review of the whole information we have received, the Assembly take their stand at the foot of the cross, and rejoice in the wonders of redeeming love.

If the state of religion in the churches under their care had even been generally dark and unpromising, though they might mourn over the ingratitude of man, they could not cease to confide in the faithfulness of God. But in justly deserved wrath, our God has remembered mercy; once more he has given us abundant cause to glorify his name, and to rejoice with trembling.

We have only to add our ardent prayer, that 'the angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to every kindred and tongue,' may soon reach the utmost bounds of his destination; that every obstacle that might impede his flight, or stay his progress, may be speedily removed, and that the knowledge of Christ may soon cover the earth as the waters fill the sea. Come quickly; 'Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.'"

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh reported, and the book was approved to page 59.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia reported, and the book was approved to page 369.

Agreeably to the order for the afternoon, the election was held for a delegate from this Assembly to the General Association of the State of Connecticut, to meet in Lebanon, the third Tuesday in June next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. John E. Latta was declared duty elected to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish Mr. Latta with an attested copy of this minute, which shall serve as his commission.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Read was appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Latta, the third Sabbath in June, and the Rev. Samuel Bell to supply the fourth Sabbath in June.

An overture was received from the Trustees of the General Assembly, stating that if application were made to the Legislature of North Carolina, a law might probably be procured exempting the lands of the Assembly from future taxation.

Messrs. Irwin, Finley, and Burch, were appointed a committee to take this overture into consideration, and report to the Assembly.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the request of the Presbytery of Hartford for the revision of the act of the Assembly of 1792, in relation to itinerating clergymen, made the following report, which being read, was agreed to, and confirmed by the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That on examining the act referred to above, comprising the regulations that are to be observed by the churches in connection with the Assembly and the General Association of Connecticut, on this subject, the Assembly perceive no ground for further interference in this matter. So far as regards ministers not in connection with either the Presbyterian Church, or with the General Association of Connecticut, the Assembly are of opinion that as their regulations cannot apply to such ministers, the several Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly must exercise their own Christian prudence and caution in admitting ministers of this description to preach to the congregations within their respective bounds.

*Resolved*, That the delegate appointed to represent this Assembly at the next meeting of the Convention of Vermont, be, and he is hereby authorized to propose and agree upon the same regulations which have been agreed to be observed by this Assembly and the General Association of Connecticut, in relation to the credentials requisite for such ministers, as may come within the bounds of this Assembly or the Convention of Vermont, for the purpose of preaching the gospel.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk transmit to the Presbytery of Hartford a certified copy of the foregoing minutes, and also furnish the delegate to Vermont with an attested copy of the last minute.

Mr. Cornell resigned his seat to the Rev. James F. Armstrong, and Mr. Benjamin Smith resigned his seat to Mr. Jasper Smith, the alternates mentioned in their commissions, and Messrs. Armstrong and Jasper Smith were received as members, and accordingly took their seats.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Finley having resigned his seat to the Rev. George S. Woodhull, the alternate mentioned in their commission, Mr. Woodhull being received as a member, took his seat.

The Committee of Overtures brought in an overture for the establishment of a general religious tract society, for the purpose of distributing through every part of the United States, such tracts, as are at once cheap and calculated to do the most extensive good.

Messrs. Pinneo, Armstrong, and Perkins, were appointed a committee to take this overture into consideration, and report to the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That an election be held on Saturday morning next, for a trustee to supply the place of Mr. David Jackson, deceased; and a nomination for this purpose was accordingly made.

Mr. William Latta resigned his seat to the Rev. George C. Potts, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Potts was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees be authorized to direct their Treasurer to credit the following Presbyteries with the sums annexed, having been paid to missionaries, and that the said sums be allowed to the Treasurer in the settlement of his accounts, viz:

Presbytery of Columbia, $43, paid to Mr. Harrison.

Presbytery of Geneva, $10.50, paid to Mr. Chapman.

*Resolved*, That it is hereby enjoined on all persons, holding money belonging to, or collected for the Assembly, to pay the same only to the Treasurer of the Trustees; and it is also enjoined on all persons to whom money may be due from the Assembly, if they do not personally apply for it, to give their written orders authorizing some one to receive their money for them.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the overture on the appointment of a day of thanksgiving, reported; and after some discussion on the subject, and a decision by the Assembly, that a day of thanksgiving be appointed, the report was referred to the Rev. Messrs. Williams, Armstrong, and Woodhull, and Messrs. Bayard and Scott, as a committee to take the subject into farther consideration, and report to the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk be authorized, and he therefore is authorized, to have immediately printed, at the expense of the Assembly, one thousand copies of the narrative on the state of religion, that had been accepted and approved by the Assembly, that they may be distributed among the members previous to the dissolution of this Assembly.

The committee to which had been referred a communication from the Trustees of the General Assembly, respecting their lands in North Carolina, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

"That said lands have been hitherto unproductive; that taxes to a considerable amount have been paid, and are payable thereon yearly; that as the proceeds of these lands are appropriated to public uses, in which the state of North Carolina is interested, the legislature of that State, on a proper application to them, would probably discharge the Assembly from the payment of these taxes in future. Your committee, therefore, submit the following draught of a memorial to the legislature, viz:

" *To the Honourable the Legislature of North Carolina:*

The Memorial of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, respectfully showeth, That the incorporated Trustees of this Assembly, and Richard Stockton, Esq., of New Jersey, hold in fee simple, as tenants in common, an equal undivided right in twenty thousand acres of land, more or less, with several messuages thereon, situated in Buncomb county, in Carolina aforesaid; that the moiety of these lands held as aforesaid for this Assembly, was a donation from Elias Boudinot, Esq., and is appropriated exclusively to the purpose of promoting learning, civilization, and religion among the American Indians; objects these, intimately connected with the best interests of government and of society in the United States. The Assembly, therefore, pray the Honourable Legislature to take the premises into consideration, and adopt such measures as to their wisdom shall seem proper for exempting from taxation that moiety of said tract of land which is held for public uses, so long as it shall be so held, and the proceeds so applied.

Signed by order of the General Assembly which met at Philadelphia, May 18th, 1809.

Your committee farther submit the propriety of accompanying this memorial with an official copy of the deed from Mr. Boudinot, conveying these lands in trust to the Trustees of the General Assembly, and an authentic copy of their charter of incorporation."

The above report having been considered and amended, the Assembly adopted the same; and,

*Resolved*, That a fair copy of the memorial be signed by the Moderator, and attested by the Clerk, and committed to the Rev. James Burch to be presented to the legislature of North Carolina at their next sessions; and that the Trustees furnish Mr. Burch with every document which may appear necessary or proper, and that he be authorized to draw on the Trustees for any expense necessarily incurred in the prosecution of the business committed to him.

The following overture was submitted to the Assembly, and adopted:

Whereas, It is of much importance both to facilitate the doing of business in the General Assembly, and to render their proceedings consistent and accurate, that they should at all times be able to take an easy and full view of former rules and decisions, it is therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk be, and he is hereby charged with the business of preparing a book, to be called a Book of Rules, and of having entered therein those rules of the former Synod of New York and Philadelphia, which were sanctioned by the General Assembly, A. D. 1789, and then all those acts and decisions of the General Assembly from, 1789 to the present year, which relate either to the government of the Assembly in its proceedings, or the government of the church at large; marking, in a column prepared for that purpose, the page of the records where such a rule or decision may be found. And it shall further be the duty of the Stated Clerk, to mark with a pencil such decisions of the Assembly as relate to the general government or discipline of the church, and the duties of judicatures, that such decisions may hereafter be selected and printed for the general use of the churches, if a future Assembly shall so order.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk lay before the Assembly of the next year the book prepared and the entries made as above directed, and that he be indemnified for all expenses necessarily arising from the execution of this order.

Messrs. Clark, Romeyn, and Hoge, were appointed a committee to write a pastoral letter on the subject of disciplining baptized persons, children as well as adults, and submit it to the Assembly.

The following persons were chosen and appointed to serve as a standing Committee of Missions:

Of Philadelphia and vicinity, the Rev. Drs. Blair, Green, and Wilson, the Rev. Messrs. Alexander, Janeway, and Potts. Messrs. Boudinot, Hazard, Connelly, Haslett, and Robert Smith.

Of the Synod of Albany, the Rev. Jonas Coe.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, Rev. Joseph Clark.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. Robert Cathcart.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. James Hughes.

Of the Synod of Virginia, Rev. Conrad Speece.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe

Of the Synod of the Carolinas, William Paisley.

The Assembly having elected their standing Committee of Missions for the present year, did, and hereby do enjoin it on those members of said committee, who live at a distance from the place where the committee meet, to communicate to the committee in writing any information on the subject of missions, which they may suppose to be useful, and especially within the bounds of that Synod, to which these distant members may severally belong.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee to which was referred the report on the appointment of a day of thanksgiving, brought in the following report, and it was adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God in his wise providence to avert in a great measure the temporal judgments which threatened us during the past year; and whereas the interests of religion are advancing so as to fill the hearts of believers with gladness, and to encourage them in hopes of more plentiful outpourings of God's Spirit, therefore,

*Resolved*, That it be, and it hereby is recommended to the several congregations under the care of the General Assembly, that they do respectively set apart the fourth Thursday of August next, to be observed as a day of solemn thanksgiving and prayer; and that on said day the members of our different congregations throughout the United States do abstain from unnecessary worldly labour and recreations, and meet in their several places of public worship for the purpose of rendering their united praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the distinguished and unmerited blessings with which he has visited our country and the churches in our land during the year past. And that it be farther recommended to the congregations so assembled, humbly to implore the great Head of the Church, that he would establish the peace and prosperity of our country, that he would visit his churches with still more copious effusions of his blessed Spirit throughout this and every other land; that sinners may be turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that professors of religion may walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called, and that the heathen may be given to Christ for an inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession, and that the ends thereof may speedily see the salvation of God.

Ordered, That the above resolution be printed with the statement of religion, and that the Stated Clerk be directed to furnish the members of this Assembly, and to forward to all the Presbyteries that are not represented in this Assembly, copies of this resolution, equal in number to the congregations under their care.

Dr. Davidson and Mr. Bayard had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee apppointed on the Synodical and Presbyterial reports brought in their report, containing a compendious view of Presbyterial reports, and it was accepted, and an order passed that it be transcribed by the Stated Clerk in the book procured for that purpose.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and Mr. Potts, were appointed a committee to select the extracts of the minutes of this Assembly proper to be printed.

*Resolved*, That this committee be careful to take their details of moneys paid for the Missionary and Commissioners' Fund from the Treasurer's account.

The committee who were appointed by the last Assembly to meet with the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, to appropriate certain moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College at the disposal of the General Assembly, not being present, and no report having been sent forward on that subject by the aforesaid committee, it was represented to the Assembly by a member, that the committee had attended to their duty, and made an appropriation of the money referred to.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. David Comfort, and Isaac V. Brown, be appointed a committee to meet with the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, on the last Wednesday in September next, to dispose of the interest that may then be due on moneys in the hands of the said Trustees, and report to the next General Assembly.

The committee appointed to review the report of the Committee of Missions, and to select such articles as require the attention of the Assembly, reported, and the report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly issue warrants to their Treasurer, to pay the balances due for missionary services for the year past, viz:

To the Rev. John Lindsley, $66.13. Rev. Samuel Findley, 85.25. Rev. David Rice, 33.33. Rev. Jeremiah Abel, 85.04. Rev. James McGready, 68.50. Rev. Gideon Blackburn, 166.67. Rev. Jedediah Chapman, 56.17. Rev. John Alexander, 46.67. Rev. Thomas W. Lumpkin, 66.67. Rev. John H. Rice, 66.67. Rev. Elisha McCurdy, 33.33. Rev. Matthew Harrison, 18.49.

2. That the General Assembly approve the recommendations given by the Committee of Missions to the Trustees of the General Assembly, to pay the sums hereafter specified, to the following persons, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| *May 28th*, 1808. | |
| To the Rev. James Hughes for the Board of Trust of the Western Missionary Society, | $400.00 |
| *March 30th*, 1809. | |
| To Jane Aitken for paper, printing, and stitching the extracts, 1808, | 117.00 |
| To ditto for binding the second thousand copies of the Confession of Faith, | 75.00 |
| To Richard Stockton, Esq., for taxes on the lands in North Carolina for 1806, | 15.00 |
| To Patton & Erwine for taxes on ditto for 1807, | 22.51 |
| To the Rev. David Rice for missionary services, | 85.00 |
| To the Rev. William Lee for ditto, | 100.00 |
| To the Rev. Samuel Scott for ditto, | 65.36 |
| To the Rev. Gideon Blackburn, the appropriations for 1807 and 1808, being $500 each year, | 1000.00 |
| To the Board of Trust of the Western Missionary Society, being the contingent allowance of | 100.00 |
| *May 15th*, 1809. | |
| To James Patton, jr., for the taxes on the lands in North Carolina for the year 1808, | 21.67 |
| | $2001.54 |

3. *Resolved,* That it be again solemnly enjoined on all Presbyteries and Synods within the bounds of the General Assembly, on no account to interfere with the instructions given by the Committee of Missions to missionaries.

4. *Resolved,* That the Assembly have just reason to believe that the interest of the missionary cause would be more effectually promoted, by publishing in future more enlarged extracts from the report of the Committee of Missions.

5. *Resolved,* That the General Assembly renew their injunction, that the missionary reports shall be forwarded without fail, by the first day of May, annually.

Mr. Coe had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The Committee of Missions made their second report, which being read and amended was adopted, and is as follows:

The standing Committee of Missions beg leave to recommend to the General Assembly to appoint the following persons as missionaries:

1. The Rev. Jedediah Chapman a missionary for four months, in the Genessee country, at his own discretion.

2. The Rev. Gideon Blackburn a missionary to the Cherokee Indians for six months.

3. The Rev. Stuart Williamson, and William Kennedy, a licentiate, missionaries at Dover, Delaware, till the first of May next; the time to be divided between them.

4. The Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley a missionary for three months on the following route, viz: Dutch, Elk, and Flint rivers, Crowl Creek, Tennessee, and in other destitute places.

5. The Rev. John Lindsley a missionary for three months in the counties of Steuben, Tioga, and Ontario, in the State of New York; and that he be directed particularly to visit a congregation styled "The United Presbyterian Congregation," residing in Steuben and Ontario counties, from whom a petition was received by the General Assembly.

6. The Rev. John H. Rice a missionary for three months to the blacks in Charlotte county, Virginia, and parts adjacent.

7. The Rev. Thomas Cleland a missionary for four months in Louisiana, he being allowed to preach at discretion in going and returning.

8. The Rev. James Kemper a missionary for four months in the country included between the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers, the Blue Ridge and the Chesapeake.

9. The Rev. John Howe a missionary for three months, spending his time chiefly in the bounds of the late Cumberland Presbytery, and if convenient to visit Upper Louisiana.

10. The Rev. Samuel Finley a missionary for three months in the bounds of the late Cumberland Presbytery.

11. Mr. Andrew McDonald a missionary for four months on the head waters of Muskingum, Hockhocking, and Scioto.

12. The Rev. John Boyd a missionary for two months on the head waters of Allegheny, and the borders of Lake Erie.

13. The Rev. James McGready a missionary for three months on the waters of the Great Miami.

14. Mr. James H. Dickey a missionary for four months in the Indiana Territory.

15. The Rev. David Rice a missionary for one month, at discretion.

The committee recommend also:

1. That this committee be authorized to employ a missionary for three

months, on the peninsula lying between the Delaware and Chesapeake bays and the ocean.

2. That the Presbytery of Columbia be authorized to employ two missionaries, one for two months, and another for three months, on routes recommended by the Presbytery, viz: the one to itinerate about Lake George and Lake Champlain, visiting all the towns and settlements in that region, until he reach the state of Vermont: the other to commence his route at Ticonderoga, on the west side of Lake Champlain, and to pursue his course down that lake, visiting all the destitute settlements in that region, until he arrive at the province of Canada.

3. That the Presbytery of Albany be authorized to employ two missionaries, for two months each, in that tract of country which is adjacent to the Sacondaga river, and in the county of St. Lawrence.

4. That the Presbytery of New Brunswick be authorized to employ a missionary for two months, in such parts of the state of New Jersey within their bounds, as shall appear to them to have the greatest need of missionary labours.

5. That the standing Committee of Missions be authorized to appoint a person or persons to perform missionary services for six months, in the city and suburbs of Philadelphia, and the country adjacent.

6. That the Presbytery of Huntingdon be authorized to employ a missionary for two months, in the missionary country within their bounds.

7. That the Presbytery of Hudson be authorized to employ a missionary for two months, in the missionary region within their bounds.

8. That the Presbytery of Washington be authorized to employ a missionary for three months within their bounds.

9. That the Presbytery of Transylvania be authorized to employ a missionary for four months, to visit the country of the Natchez.

10. That the Presbytery of Baltimore be authorized to employ a missionary at Bladensburgh, and in the city of Washington, near the navy-yard, to be compensated for not more than three months; and that the same Presbytery be authorized to employ a missionary for one month, at Soldier's Delight.

The committee farther recommend to the Assembly that five hundred dollars be appropriated for the use of the Hywassee School, in the Cherokee country, for the current year; and that the Trustees of the General Assembly be authorized and directed to pay, when the circumstances of the funds, during the present year, will admit, four hundred dollars to the Board of Trust of the Synod of Pittsburgh, for the support of the Indian Mission under their care; and if it shall appear consistent with the state of the funds, after provision shall have been made to satisfy generally the other appropriations for missionary services, the Trustees be authorized and directed to pay, upon the recommendation of the Committee of Missions, one hundred dollars more, toward promoting the important design above mentioned.

The following appointments of committees to make out supplies for the pulpits of the missionaries, during their attention to their respective missions, were made.

The Rev. Messrs. Samuel Ramsey, and Samuel Carrick were appointed a committee to supply the pulpit of Mr. Lapsley.

The Rev. Messrs. Samuel B. Robinson, and Thomas Cleland, to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Cleland.

The Rev. Messrs. David Rice, and Jeremiah Abel, to make out supplies for Mr. Howe's pulpit.

The Rev. Messrs. Samuel B. Robinson, and Samuel Findley, to make out supplies for Mr. Findley's pulpit.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee on the Commissioners' Fund brought in the following report, which was adopted, viz:

"That the following is a statement of the Presbyteries which have paid this year into the Commissioners' Fund, together with the sums paid by each:

Presbytery of Geneva, $24.33. Oneida, 47.02. Albany, 55.38. Columbia, 45.68. Hudson, 64.57. New York, 216.45. New Brunswick, 71.79. Philadelphia, 215.00. New Castle, 32.03. Carlisle, 30.00. Lewes, 11.15. Baltimore, 10.00. Huntingdon, 28.00. Ohio, 55.64. Erie, 26.98. Lancaster, 10.00. Abingdon, 20.71. Transylvania, 25.00. West Lexington, 42.25. Washington, 48.50. Orange, 33.00. Total received this year, 1113.48. Add the balance of last year's account of this fund, 65.47. Sum to be distributed, $1178.95."

*Resolved*, That the following sums be paid to the commisioners, as hereinafter specified, viz:

To Mr. Lansing, $37.70. Mr. Oliver, 40.20. Dr. Blatchford, 33.28. Mr. Bassel, 33.28. Mr. Hosack, 37.70. Mr. Kelly, 33.93. Mr. Johnston, 20.10. Mr. Crane, 20.10. Dr. Milledoler, 11.31. Mr. Romeyn, 11.31. Mr. Williams, 9.42. Mr. Picton, 8.80. Mr. Thompson, 9.42. Mr. Harrison, 10.04. Mr. C. Clark, 8.80. Mr. Core, 9.42. Mr. J. Clark, 7.54. Mr. Finley, 7.54. Mr. Barclay, 8.80. Mr. Cornell, 5.02. Mr. Scott, 7.54. Mr. Smith, 3.77. Mr. Edwards, 11.31. Mr. Miller, 5.65. Mr. Stockton, 50.26. Mr. Robert Johnson, 43.97. Mr. Anderson, 45.24. Mr. Woods, 40.20. Mr. Laughlin, 43.97. Mr. Stewart, 81.67. Mr. Lyle, 81.67. Mr. Cleland, 82.10. Mr. Hoge, 62.82. Mr. Bovell, 69.11. Mr. Burch, 56.55. Mr. Wright, 59.05. Mr. Copes, 15.08. Mr. Smith, 18.85. Mr. Hood, 20.10. Mr. Buyers, 16.33. Sum to be paid, $1178.95; which sum is the whole amount of this fund.

*Resolved*, That as the amount of money contributed towards the Commissioners' Fund has not been sufficient to defray the expenses of commissioners this year, agreeably to the allowance contemplated in the resolution relating to that subject, and as such a circumstance may materially affect the attendance of members in the General Assembly: it is therefore earnestly recommended to the several Presbyteries within our bounds to exert themselves in raising contributions sufficient for this important purpose.

The following resolution was submitted to the Assembly, and after a lengthy discussion was adopted.

Whereas, it appeared in the course of the free conversation on the state of religion, that in one of the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly, the sessional records of the several church sessions were not regularly called up and examined every year by the said Presbytery, and there is reason to believe that other Presbyteries had conducted in the same manner: therefore,

*Resolved*, That it be, and it hereby is required of all the Presbyteries within the bounds of the General Assembly, annually to call up and examine the sessional records of the several churches under their care, as directed in the Book of Discipline.

The committee appointed to report on the establishment of a society for procuring and distributing religious tracts, reported the following resolution, and it was adopted:

*Resolved*, That whereas it appears to this Assembly, that great and increasing good has accrued to the Church of Christ by the distribution of small, cheap, religious tracts; it is hereby earnestly recommended, that each

Synod take measures for establishing as many religious tract societies within their bounds, by association of one or more Presbyteries, as may be most convenient for this purpose; and that such societies may adopt such plan for carrying into effect the object of this resolution, as may be most conducive in their judgment to this end.

Messrs. Kennedy and Copes had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Agreeably to the order of the day, an election was held for a Trustee of the General Assembly.

The ballot being taken, Mr. Francis Markoe was declared duly elected.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly make no farther election of Trustees this year.

*Resolved*, That the committee appointed to superintend the printing of the extracts from the minutes of this General Assembly, be directed to publish, in an appendix to the printed extracts, the reports received from the different Presbyteries, as far as these reports respect the names of ministers and congregations belonging to the different Presbyteries, naming the Presbyteries from which no reports have been received.

A letter and other papers, from the Rev. Thomas Ledley Birch, were brought before the Assembly, and being read, were referred to Messrs. Clark, Inglis, Hosack, Connelly, and Bassel, as a committee to take them into consideration, and report to the Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the overture in relation to the establishment of a Theological School, brought in the following report, which being read, was adopted, viz:

"The committee appointed on the subject of a Theological School overtured from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, report:

That three modes of compassing this important object have presented themselves to their consideration.

The first is, to establish one great school in some convenient place, near the centre of the bounds of our Church.

The second is, to establish two schools, in such places as may best accommodate the northern and southern divisions of the Church.

The third is, to establish such a school within the bounds of each of the Synods. In this case, your committee suggest the propriety of leaving it to each Synod to direct the mode of forming the school, and the place where it shall be established.

The advantages attending the first of the proposed modes are, that it would be furnished with larger funds, and therefore, with a more extensive library, and a greater number of professors. The system of education pursued in it would, therefore, be more extensive and more perfect; the youths educated in it would also be more united in the same views, and contract an early and lasting friendship for each other; circumstances which could not fail of promoting harmony and prosperity in the Church. The disadvantages attending this mode would be principally those derived from the distance of its position from the extremities of the Presbyterian bounds.

The advantages attending the second of the proposed modes, and the disadvantages, will readily suggest themselves from a comparison of this with the other two.

The advantages which would attend the third, to wit, the establishment of Theological Schools by the respective Synods, would be the following: The local situation of the respective schools would be peculiarly convenient for the several parts of a country so extensive as that for the benefit of which they were designed. The inhabitants having the seminaries brought near to them, would feel a peculiar interest in their prosperity, and may be rationally expected to contribute to it much more liberally and generally, than to a single school, or even two. The Synods also, having the immediate care of them, and directing, either in person or by delegation, all their concerns, would feel a similar interest, and would probably be better pleased with a system formed by themselves, and therefore peculiarly suited to the wishes and interests of the several parts of the Church immediately under their direction. Greater efforts, therefore, may be expected from ministers and people, to promote the prosperity of these schools, than of any other. The disadvantages of this mode would be the inferiority of the funds, a smaller number of professors, a smaller library, and a more limited system of education in each. The students also, would, as now, be strangers to each other.

Should the last of these modes be adopted, your committee are of opinion, that every thing pertaining to the erection and conduct of each school, should be left to the direction of the respective Synods. If either of the first, the whole should be subject to the control of the General Assembly.

Your committee also suggest, that in the former of these cases, the funds for each school should be raised within the bounds of the Synod within which it was stationed. In the latter they should be collected from the whole body of the church.

Your committee therefore submit the following resolution, to wit:

*Resolved*, That the above plans be submitted to all the Presbyteries within the bounds of the General Assembly for their consideration, and that they be careful to send up to the next Assembly, at their sessions in May 1810, their opinions on the subject.

A draught of a pastoral letter was, by the committee appointed for that purpose, submitted to the General Assembly and read, and after some discussion on the subject it was recommitted to the same committee, enlarged by the addition of Messrs. Milledoler, Blatchford, and Inglis.

Mr. Laughlin had leave of absence for the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee to which Mr. Birch's papers had been referred, reported, and their report being read and under discussion, the further consideration of it was postponed, and the following resolution was proposed as a substitute, and being discussed at considerable length was adopted :

*Resolved*, That as the General Assembly are always disposed to exercise charity and mercy towards an offender who repents, they will therefore give Mr. Birch the relief he wishes, whenever he affords sufficient testimony of his penitence ; but as he has failed in the present case to afford such testimony, the Assembly decline reversing the decision passed in 1803.

The committee to which the pastoral letter had been recommitted, submitted to the Assembly the following resolution, which being read was adopted.

Whereas, The book of discipline states that children born within the pale of the visible church, and dedicated to God in baptism, are under the inspection and government of the church, and specifies various important particulars in which that inspection and government should be exercised, as also directs the mode in which they shall be treated if they do not perform the duties of church members; and whereas there is reason to apprehend that many of our congregations neglect to catechize the children that have been admitted to the sealing ordinance of baptism, and do not exercise suitable discipline over them, therefore

*Resolved*, That the different Presbyteries within our bounds are hereby directed to inquire of the different sessions, whether a proper pastoral care be exercised over baptized children in their congregations, that they learn the principles of religion, and walk in newness of life before God; and that said Presbyteries do direct all sessions that are delinquent in this respect, to attend to it carefully and without delay.

The Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., David Higgins, Aaron Woolworth, Samuel Miller, D. D., Joseph Clark, Ashbel Green, D. D., Robert Cathcart, John McMillan, D. D., Thomas E. Hughes, Drury Lacey, Moses Hoge, Robert G. Wilson, James Blythe, William Turner, and James Hall, D. D., were appointed a standing committee to certify the good qualifications of the preachers travelling to officiate in the bounds of the General Association of the State of Connecticut; and it was, moreover, agreed that any preacher travelling as aforesaid, shall have at least the name of one of the committee, who shall belong to the Synod from whose bounds he came.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk for his services, agreeably to the rate fixed by the Assembly of 1806, and also for the stationery furnished by him for the use of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue a warrant for the payment of nineteen dollars and fifty cents, to Joseph Jacobs, for nine days' service rendered the Assembly during the present sessions, and for certain articles procured by him for their use.

The roll being called agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain if any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was determined that no person be reported this year to his Presbytery, as delinquent in this respect.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, therefore, dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution. Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1809.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oneida, | 7 | — | 13 | 378 | $104 |
| Geneva, | 14 | — | 12 | 211 | 24 |
| Columbia, | 10 | — | 15 | 636 | 135 |
| Albany, | 9 | — | 15 | 953 | 154 |
| Hudson, | 16 | — | 22 | 993 | 187 |
| New York, | 29 | 2 | 25 | 4317 | 994 |
| Long Island, | 16 | 3 | 15 | 597 | 30 |
| New Brunswick, | 22 | 3 | 36 | 1650 | 953 |
| Philadelphia, | 18 | — | 26 | 1594 | 331 |
| New Castle, | 20 | 2 | 34 | 725 | 129 |
| Carlisle, | 21 | 1 | 32 | 2519 | 215 |
| Baltimore, | 10 | — | 9 | 525 | 132 |
| Lewes, | 4 | — | 19 | 406 | 22 |
| Huntingdon, | 14 | — | 32 | 1437 | 56 |
| Redstone | 16 | — | 39 | 883 | 287 |
| Ohio, | 22 | 4 | 37 | 2566 | 232 |
| Erie, | 12 | — | 38 | 697 | — |
| Winchester, | 7 | — | 19 | 253 | 30 |
| Hanover, | 9 | 4 | 18 | 486 | 241 |

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lexington, | 13 | 4 | 23 | — | 82 |
| West Lexington, | 9 | 1 | 19 | 296 | 36 |
| Washington, | 12 | 1 | 35 | 871 | 49 |
| Transylvania, | 20 | 2 | 24 | 617 | 20 |
| Lancaster, | 5 | — | 23 | 106 | — |
| Orange, | 15 | 6 | 28 | — | — |
| 1st, South Carolina. | No report. | | | | |
| 2d, do., | 9 | — | 23 | 1038 | — |
| Abingdon. | No report. | | | | |
| Concord, | 14 | 2 | 29 | — | 18 |
| Union. | No report. | | | | |
| Hopewell. | No report. | | | | |
| Hartford, | 9 | 3 | 29 | 544 | — |
| Total, | 392 | 38 | 652 | 25,298 | $4,460* |

* These collections were for the Presbyterial, Education, Missionary, and Commissioners' Fund. The above is copied from the compendious view kept by the Stated Clerk of the Assembly, but it appears from the printed extracts for the year, that a much larger amount was collected during the year.

## 1810.

Philadelphia, *May* 17*th*, 1810.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and the Moderator of the last Assembly not being present, was opened by the Rev. John H. Rice, with a sermon from Luke xii. 48, middle clause of the verse—"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."

After prayer the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

Presbytery of Geneva—The Rev. Jedediah Chapman, Rev. Charles Mosher, and Rev. Dirck C. Lansing. Mr. Jeptha Wade, elder.

Presbytery of Oneida—The Rev. Samuel F. Snowden.

Presbytery of Columbia—The Rev. John Younglove.* Mr. Andrew Hunter, elder.

Presbytery of Londonderry—The Rev. Daniel Dana.

Middle Association—The Rev. Joshua Leonard. Mr. John Linklaen, elder.

Presbytery of Albany—The Rev. William Neill, and Rev. Alexander Monteith. Mr. Isaac Hutton, elder.

Presbytery of Hudson—The Rev. Methuselah Baldwin, Rev. Ebenezer Grant, and Rev. Isaac VanDoren. Messrs. Reuben Hopkins, William Bodel, and Jacob Linderman, elders.

Presbytery of Long Island—The Rev. Nathaniel Prime. Mr. Abraham Parsons, elder.

Presbytery of New York—The Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, Rev. Dr. John B. Romeyn. Messrs. Robert Lenox, and Zechariah Lewis, elders.

Presbytery of Jersey—The Rev. Aaron Condit, Rev. Henry Cook, Rev. James Richards, Rev. Matthew L. R. Perine, and Rev. John McDowell. Messrs. Robert Ogden, Moses Chandler, Jacob Davis, Benjamin Thompson, and William Parsell,* elders.

Presbytery of New Brunswick—The Rev. James F. Armstrong, Rev.

---

* Took his seat the second day of the sessions.

Dr. Joseph Clark, and Rev. Isaac V. Brown. Messrs. David Bishop, John Morehead, Benjamin Smith, and Samuel Bayard,* elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Dr. Samuel Blair, Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Rev. Dr. James P. Wilson, and Rev. George C. Potts. Messrs. Jonathan Elmer, William Smiley, Thomas Latimer, and James Stuart, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Nathan Grier, Rev. Samuel Martin, Rev. William Arthur, and Rev. James Magraw. Messrs. Peter Williams, James Ralston, and Robert Evans, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Robert Cathcart, Rev. David McConnaughy, Rev. John Moody, and Rev. James Sharon. Mr. John Dixon, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF LEWES—The Rev. Stuart Williamson.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. Dr. James Muir. Mr. Robert Munroe, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. James Linn.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. Samuel Tait.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. James Guthrie.

PRESBYTERY OF LANCASTER—The Rev. James Scott.

PRESBYTERY OF HARTFORD—The Rev. Alexander Cook.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. Andrew Given, and Rev. John Anderson.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. John Matthews.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. Conrad Speece, and Rev. John H. Rice.

FIRST PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—The Rev. William C. Davis, and Robert B. Watkin.

SECOND PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—The Rev. Hugh Dixon.

PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—The Rev. William Calhoun.

PRESBYTERY OF WASHINGTON—The Rev. Robert G. Wilson.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST LEXINGTON—The Rev. Samuel Rannells.

PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—The Rev. Dr. James Hall, and Rev. John M. Wilson.

GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.—The Rev. Zebulon Eli, and Rev. Henry A. Rowland, produced a certificate of their appointment as delegates to represent that body in this Assembly, and accordingly took their seats as members.

The Rev. Joseph Rice, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, having forgotten his commission, and it being stated by several commissioners from the same Presbytery, that he was duly appointed, On motion,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Rice be received as a member.

And he accordingly took his seat.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a Moderator and Temporary Clerk, and the Rev. Dr. John B. Romeyn was duly chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart was chosen Temporary Clerk.

The minutes of the last Assembly were in part read.

The Rev. Dr. Clark, and the Rev. Messrs. Neill, Magraw, Speece, Davis, Tait, and Robert G. Wilson, and Messrs. Hutton, Ogden, Dixon, and Benjamin Smith, elders, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

---

* Took his seat the second day of the sessions.

*May 18th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. William Parsell, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Jersey, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The reading of the minutes of the last Assembly was resumed and finished.

A proposal from the General Association of New Hampshire was made by the Rev. William F. Rowland and the Rev. John H. Church, commissioners appointed for that purpose, for a union between them and this Assembly, similar to that subsisting between the General Association of Connecticut and this Assembly. The certificate of their appointment and the papers accompanying it were read.

*Resolved*, That said union be formed.

And it accordingly was formed.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. Rowland and Church be invited to sit as members of this Assembly.

And they accordingly took their seats.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly send annually two delegates to the meetings of the General Association of New Hampshire.

Agreed, That on next Monday morning the Assembly will enter into a free conversation on the state of religion.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer and other religious exercises; and that Dr. Muir, and Messrs. Snowden and Leonard, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and the Rev. George C. Potts, were appointed a committee to make extracts from the minutes of this Assembly to be printed.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Hall, and Messrs. Arthur and Bishop, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Grier, Matthews, and Wade, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Snowden, Grant, and Hutton, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Muir, Messrs. VanDoren and Parsons, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Irwin, Tait, and Dixon, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Richards, Dana, and Chandler, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Connaughy, Mosher, and Morehead, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of the State of Connecticut reported, and their report is as follows:

"The undersigned, who were appointed delegates by the last Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, respectfully report to this Assembly, that they attended during the sessions of said Association, and were received with cordiality and treated with attention and respect; and were highly pleased with the harmony and the brotherly love which prevailed among the members of that body. That a great variety of business was transacted, being however, principally local, they consider only the following articles as peculiarly interesting to the Assembly, to wit: That the Association expect very shortly to form a connection with the General Association of Massachusetts proper, upon a plan similar to that which exists between this Assembly and the Association of Connecticut. That they agreed to countenance and aid as far as practicable a Bible Society, lately instituted in that state. That very pleasing accounts of the revival of religion in many congregations were received. That missionary business is prosecuted by the Association with diligence and with considerable success; and they have at present employed in their service seventeen missionaries. That the Rev. Messrs. Ely, Chauncy, Lee, and Rowland, were appointed delegates to attend the next General Assembly, and that the next General Association of Connecticut is appointed to be held in the town of Ellington, on the third Tuesday in June 1810, to meet at 11 o'clock, A. M.

G. Williams,
Jno. E. Latta.

*Lebanon, June* 22, 1809."

The delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Convention in the State of Vermont reported, and his report is as follows:

"The subscriber, appointed by the last Assembly as delegate to the General Convention of Vermont, begs leave to report,

That he attended, agreeably to his appointment, the whole course of the sessions of the General Convention; he was received with great cordiality and Christian friendship, and the Convention appeared to be impressed with a sense of the importance of the connection so happily formed between them and the General Assembly.

That the resolution of the General Assembly respecting the appointment of a standing committee to certify the good standing of ministers travelling into the bounds of the General Assembly from the State of Vermont, and which your delegate was authorized to transact, was agreed to with great unanimity, and an extract from the minutes of the Convention on this subject is forwarded herewith, to which it may be proper to add, that the publishing the names of the committees, appointed by the respective bodies in this case, and taking measures to make the different parts of the Church acquainted with them, to prevent imposition, was considered of great consequence.

The other business of the Convention related chiefly to the local circumstances of the churches of Vermont. From many towns, the good news of a work of divine grace among the people, and of great additions to a number of churches, was received; but in other parts coldness, stupidity, and dissension, were represented as prevailing. The too prevalent neglect of catechetical instruction was deeply lamented; and the Convention took measures, if possible, to correct the evil.

The Rev. Bancroft Fowler was chosen to attend the next meeting of the General Assembly, and the Rev. Stephen Fuller his substitute.

The next meeting of the Convention is to be holden at the house of the Rev. Elijah Lyman, in Brookfield, at the usual time.

Samuel Blatchford."

An extract from the minutes of the Convention accompanied this report.

*Resolved*, That the following part of the extract be published in the printed extracts from the minutes of this Assembly:

"The Rev. Gershom C. Lyman, of Marlborough; Rev. Bancroft Fowler, of Windsor; Rev. Leonard Worcester, of Peacham; Rev. Martin Fuller, of Royaltown; Rev. John Griswold, of Powlet; Rev. Jedediah Bushnell, of Cornwall; and the Rev. Publius V. Bogue, of Georgia, were appointed a committee to give certificates to travelling preachers."

Sixty copies of the extracts from the minutes of the General Association of Connecticut were presented to the Assembly by the delegates from Connecticut.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to the Association for these extracts, and that the delegates to be appointed by this Assembly present an equal number of copies of the printed extracts from the minutes of this Assembly, to the General Association of Connecticut, at their next meeting.

The Presbyteries were called upon to state what they had respectively done, with respect to the recommendation of the last Assembly, relative to the establishment of a Theological School.

Messrs. Miller, Richards, Rice, Hutton, and Lewis, were appointed a committee to take the reports of the several Presbyteries, and report to the Assembly the opinions expressed by them severally on the subject.

The Presbyteries were also called upon to report, what attention they had severally paid to the order of the last Assembly in relation to sessional records. Upon inquiring, it appeared that the Presbyteries had almost universally complied with the order.

The Synods which manage the missionary business, being called upon, stated that they had severally reported, agreeably to the order of the Assembly, to the Committee of Missions, on the subject.

The Synodical reports from the Synods of Albany, of New York and New Jersey, of Pittsburgh, of Virginia, of the Carolinas, and the duplicate Presbyterial reports, were received; and Messrs. McDowell and Hutton were appointed a committee to compare these reports together, digest the whole, and read them to the Assembly; and also to make a statement of the Synods and the Presbyteries which have neglected to report.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to meet with the Trustees of the College of New Jersey at Princeton, to dispose of the interest due on moneys in the hands of said Trustees, reported, that they met the committee of the Trustees, and agreed to appropriate said interest amounting to $32.81, to the benefit of a young man in college, having in view the gospel ministry.

*Resolved*, That the same committee, viz: the Rev. David Comfort, and the Rev. Isaac V. Brown, be continued for the same purpose, and report to the next Assembly.

The Presbyteries were called upon to state the sums they had severally forwarded to the Commissioners' Fund, and Messrs. Brown and Lenox were appointed a committee to make the statement of the sums paid by the several Presbyteries, and report the statement to the Assembly, and make distribution of said fund, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. John Younglove, commissioner from the Presbytery of Columbia, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

A remonstrance from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, requesting a revision and alteration of the requisition of the last Assembly, relative to the examination of sessional records by Presbyteries, that had been laid on the table in the morning, was read, together with a protest against the remonstrance, signed by nine members of the said Presbytery. The following motion was then made and seconded:

"Whereas there exist doubts with respect to the constitutionality and expediency of the above mentioned requisition of the last Assembly; and whereas, different constructions of the parts of the Book of Discipline, relative to the subject, have been adopted by different Presbyteries, and a different practice pursued: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the resolution of the last Assembly on this subject be, and it hereby is, rescinded, and that the several Presbyteries be left to pursue the same course with respect to the records of their sessions, which they have found by experience to be most conducive to the peace, harmony, and prosperity of the Church under their care, or which they may prefer to adopt."

After a considerable discussion of this resolution, the Assembly adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 19*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. John Ross, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Castle, and the Rev. Matthew Brown, commissioner from the Presbytery of Ohio, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The Rev. Samuel F. Snowden, agent for the Assembly, to whom they had entrusted a number of copies of the Confession of Faith for sale, reported, and the report was read.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Snowden has faithfully executed his trust, so far as was practicable, and that Mr. Snowden attend to the sale of the few copies yet unsold, and when he receives the proceeds, he pay them to the Treasurer.

No report was received from any of the rest of the agents on the subject.

Messrs. Potts and Elmer were appointed a committee to call upon the Rev. James Burch, who had been appointed by the last Assembly to present a memorial to the legislature of North Carolina, relative to the taxation of lands belonging to the Assembly, and obtain from him a report to this Assembly on the subject.

The discussion of the subject which was left unfinished last session was resumed, and continued to considerable length, and, on motion, the subject was then committed. The committee appointed were Dr. Miller, and Messrs. Neill, Irwin, Speece, William C. Davis, Givin, Robert G. Wilson, Hutton, Lenox, Stuart, Hopkins, and Jacob Davis.

Dr. Wilson resigned his seat to the Rev. Jacob Janeway, the alternate mentioned in his commission.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 21*st*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Janeway being present took his seat as a member.

The Assembly, agreeably to the order of the day, proceeded to a free conversation on the state of religion; and Messrs. Ely, William F. Roland, Rice, Perine, and Lansing, were appointed a committee to digest and form the information which may be received on the subject, into a connected narrative, and lay it before the Assembly.

The members being called in the order of the roll, entered freely and fully upon the subject.

After considerable progress made in the conversation, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Samuel Bayard, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The free conversation on the state of religion was resumed and concluded. Accounts on the subject were received from all the Presbyteries represented in the Assembly, and also from the delegates from the General Association of Connecticut, and from the delegates from New Hampshire, who gave a general statement of the appearances of religion in the States in which they respectively reside. Some information was also received on the same subject from the state of Vermont.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for the prayer meeting, reported, and their report was accepted.

The committee appointed to examine the reports of the several Presbyteries on the subject of Theological Schools, and to report to the Assembly the opinions expressed by them severally on the three different plans sent down for their consideration, reported, that after carefully examining the reports of the several Presbyteries on this subject, they find the following result: Ten Presbyteries have expressed an opinion in favour of the first plan, viz: the establishment of a single school. One Presbytery has given an opinion in favour of the second plan, viz: the establishment of two schools. Ten Presbyteries have expressed a judgment in favour of the third plan, viz: the establishment of a school in each Synod. Six Presbyteries have expressed an opinion that it is not expedient, at present, to attempt the establishment of any school; and from the remaining Presbyteries no report has been received. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the same committee, with the addition of Messrs. Henry A. Rowland, and John M. Wilson, be instructed to consider the subject of Theological Schools, and to report to the Assembly, whether in their opinion any thing, and if any thing, what is proper farther to be done.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer

The minutes of the last session were read.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. Conrad Speece, for the missionary sermon, which by the appointment of the committee he had preached the preceding evening.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany reported, and their report was recommitted.

*Resolved*, That whereas it has been thought by some, that a building more convenient than a place of public worship is desirable for the meetings of the Assembly, Messrs. Miller, and Bayard, be a committee to make inquiry and report on this subject to this Assembly.

The following letter from the Presbytery of Union, addressed to the Stated Clerk to be communicated to the Assembly, was read.

*State of Tennessee*, 19*th April*, 1810.

*Rev. Fathers and Brethren*—This Presbytery having understood from documents received that they are not yet attached to any Synod, the last Assembly having been at a loss to know whether they wished to be attached to the Synods of Virginia, or of Kentucky, they now most respectfully request the Assembly to attach them to the Synod of Kentucky. This request, Rev. Sirs, I lay before you by order of Presbytery.

ROBERT HENDERSON, *Stated Clerk.*

*Resolved*, That the request of the aforesaid Presbytery be granted, and it hereby is granted; and the Presbytery of Union is by the Assembly attached to the Synod of Kentucky.

The committee appointed to prepare the Synodical and Presbyterial reports to be read to the Assembly, reported that they had examined the same, and found that in the Synods of Albany, and of New York and New Jersey, of Pittsburgh, and of Virginia, the Presbyterial reports with few exceptions, were different from the Synodical, and later; that in the Synod of Philadelphia the Presbyterial reports were duplicates of the Synodical; that from the Synod of Kentucky there were no Synodical, and only two Presbyterial reports; and that from the Synod of the Carolinas there were only two Presbyterial reports, both of which were later than the Synodical report, and different from it. The committee recommended also, that the Presbyterial reports be read, and the Synodical only where the Presbyterial are wanting.

This report was accepted, and the committee proceeded to read accordingly, and had made some progress, when the Committee of Missions came in, and agreeably to notice given, and leave obtained the preceding day, made their first report; and Messrs. Speece, Richards, and McConnaughy, were appointed a committee to take and carefully review this report, and select and report to the Assembly such articles as may require their attention.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The reading of the report of the committee appointed to prepare the Synodical and Presbyterial reports to be read to the Assembly, was resumed and finished.

Messrs. McDowell and Ogden were appointed a committee to take the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, and fill up the blanks of a form prepared to exhibit a compendious view.

The committee appointed to review the report of the Committee of Missions, and select such articles as require the attention of the Assembly, reported; and their report was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly issue warrants to their Treasurer, to pay the balances due for missionary services for the past year, viz:

To Rev. John Lindsley, $52.61. Rev. Henry Ford, 66.16. Rev. David Rice, 62.33. Rev. Timothy Williams, 57.36. Rev. James H. Dickey, 144.71. Rev. John Howe, 45.16⅔. Rev. James Kemper, 116.45½. Rev. John Boyd, 40.33. Rev. Gideon Blackburn, 166.67. Rev. Thomas Marques, 38.65. Rev. John B. Keys, 52.46. Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, 33.33. Rev. Jedediah Chapman, 66.67. Rev. Andrew McDonald, 74.16. Rev. Jacob Field, 33.33. Rev. John H. Rice, 66.67. Rev. Lemuel Smith, 47.81.

2. *Resolved*, That the General Assembly approve the recommendation given by the Committee of Missions, to the Trustees of the General Assembly, to pay the sums hereafter specified to the following persons, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| To Dr. Ashbel Green, for money advanced by him for the purchase of copies of a book entitled, "Motives to Conversion," | $ 12 | 00 |
| To the Rev. Gideon Blackburn, for the Hywassee School, | 500 | 00 |
| To John Gloucester, for three months' missionary labours, | 100 | 00 |
| To Jane Aitken, for paper, and printing extracts, | 160 | 82 |
| To ditto, on account of binding Confessions of Faith, | 110 | 00 |
| To the Board of Trust for Indian Missions, | 500 | 00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| To Thomas Harkins, for transcribing papers to send to North Carolina, - - - - - - - - - - | 4 00 |
| To Rev. John E. Latta, a delegate to the General Association of Connecticut, - - - - - - - - - | 30 30 |

In regard to the application from the Presbyterian church in the city of Washington, for aid in building a church,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly cannot with propriety take any order on the subject, though their best wishes must attend the attempt.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Muir be requested to direct that the ten dollars collected by the church at Bladensburgh, and now in the hands of their treasurer, subject to the order of the General Assembly, be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Assembly.

The committee appointed to review the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, that they had reviewed the book from page 148 to page 178, both inclusive, and that, in their opinion, these records were kept with care and attention, and that the Synod had acted constitutionally. This report was accepted, and approved by the Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d,* 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Benjamin Smith had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, and the book was approved to page 392, inclusive.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported, and the book was approved to page 64, inclusive.

The Rev. Ethan Osborn, the principal mentioned in Mr. Irwin's commission, appeared in the Assembly, and Mr. Irwin having been absent from the Assembly since Saturday, On motion,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Osborn take his seat as a member,

And he accordingly took his seat.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual accounts as settled by the Committee of the Trustees, which was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

The Committee of Overtures brought in the following resolution, which, having been read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Assembly, the decisions of the General Assembly, in 1792, and referred to by the Assembly of 1800, respecting the re-ordination of ministers regularly ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and desiring to connect themselves with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, however expedient at the time of its formation, ought not to be considered as a precedent to guide the future decisions of the judicatories of this Church; and that the Presbyteries under the care of this Assembly, when they receive into their connection an ordained minister from any other denomination, be careful to record the circumstances of the case, and the reasons which induced them to receive such ordained minister.

Mr. Parsell obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The Stated Clerk being called upon, reported that he had made some progress in preparing a Book of Rules, agreeably to the order of last Assembly, and was directed to prosecute the business, and have the book prepared for next Assembly.

The committee appointed to form a connected narrative of the information received on the state of religion, brought in their report, which, having been read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

"The General Assembly having heard a narrative of the state of religion within their bounds, are happy in having the opportunity of publishing an abstract of it, for the information of the churches under their care. And we begin with thanksgiving to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for that grace with which it hath pleased him to visit a goodly number of our churches. In many instances the arm of the Lord has been made bare; the Prince of Peace has displayed the power and glory of his grace, in the edification of his people, and the conversion of sinners. 'Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be the glory.'

The state of the Church upon the whole, is favourable; and in particular parts the Spirit of God has been poured out in copious effusions. In many towns within the bounds of our sister churches in Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, the gospel of Christ is seen to be the 'power of God and the wisdom of God to salvation.' Zion is there putting on her beautiful garments; there is flowing, with a full stream, that river which makes glad the city of our God; and the Great Shepherd is leading his flock to the green pastures by the living waters.

Advancing towards the south, we see the footsteps of our glorious Redeemer within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Long Island, Hudson, and New York. Jesus shows that he is able to save, even to the uttermost, by the conversion of old and hardened sinners, of open avowed unbelievers, and of abandoned profligates. The slaves of Satan are delivered from their bondage, and admitted into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. In the western parts of the state of New York, particularly in the newly settled regions, the progress of religion has been great; that desert buds and blossoms as the rose, and promises, under the auspices of grace, to become as the garden of the Lord. It is mentioned, as a proof of this, that in the space of eleven years, the number of ministers of Jesus in that country has increased from two to nearly fifty.

Although the revival in New Jersey, of which the Assembly made report to the churches last year, has in some degree declined, yet we are delighted to hear that the precious fruits of it remain; that apostasies are very rare; that they who name the name of Christ appear generally to walk worthy of their vocation, and that, although the harvest seems for the present to be past, yet still in many places the gleanings are considerable.

In the Presbytery of Philadelphia, the work of the Lord goes on in the congregations of Cape May and Fairfield. Many souls are there brought from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.

There are tidings also from some parts of the Presbytery of Baltimore, which make glad the hearts of the friends of Zion.

The Assembly are happy to learn that the fruits of the great revival in some of the southern States, which took place several years ago, still remain; that there also, apostasies are very rare, and professors of religion appear to have their conversation in heaven. In some instances, professional characters, formerly notorious for their adherence to the principles of infidelity, and for inattention to the duties of religion and morality, are now found publicly manifesting their attachment to the friends and the doctrines of Christianity.

With pleasure we have received the information that several seminaries of learning have been favoured with the special grace of God; and some of those youth who are expected hereafter to influence public opinion and sentiment, have become disciples of a crucified Redeemer.

In addition to this general view of the good things which God has done for us, it is remarked, that the missionaries employed by the General Assembly, and by other missionary bodies within their bounds, have performed their services with fidelity, and in several instances, with considerable success. The gospel has been carried to destitute places, and the Sun of Righteousness has risen with healing under his wings, upon some of the dark and benighted regions of our wilderness. A goodly number of churches have been organized during the year past; and now, in several places, there is an earnest cry for the stated preaching of the gospel, where ten years ago there were none who cared for these things. The missions to the poor blacks in our country have also been, in some degree, blessed by the Head of the Church, and even the heart of the savage has been melted by the all-subduing grace of God.

It is pleasing also to remark, that in some places where infidelity appeared to have built her strong holds, the doctrine of Christ crucified has triumphed. The impious heresy of Socinianism, which reduces to the level of a mere man our blessed Lord and Saviour, has been also, in some instances, considerably diminished.

The Assembly cannot forbear mentioning here, with great satisfaction, the institution of several Bible Societies, in addition to the one established nearly two years ago, in Philadelphia. We thank God that he has put it into the hearts of the pious and benevolent of various denominations, to devise and furnish the means of sending the Scriptures, which alone are able to make men wise unto salvation, to the poor and needy. And we anticipate with joy, the happy effects which it is hoped will result from these institutions. It is our most ardent prayer that they may be increased, until all who dwell upon the earth shall be favoured with the word of God, 'the only infallible rule of faith and practice.'

The Assembly also acknowledge with joy, the goodness of God in checking the progress of the errors, and healing the divisions which have prevailed for some years, in a few of the western churches.

In producing the happy effects which have been just detailed, God has done honour to his word and ordinances. As the Assembly cannot recognize as genuine any work in the hearts of men, bearing the name of religion, but that which is produced by the instrumentality of truth, and acknowledges and honours that truth; so they observe, as usual, a confirmation of this great principle in the reports concerning the state of religion, at the present sessions. In those parts of the church, without exception, in which vital religion has flourished in the course of the last year, the fundamental doctrines of the gospel, viz: 'the total depravity of human nature, the divinity and atonement of Jesus Christ, justification by his imputed righteousness, the sovereignty and freeness of divine grace, and the special influences of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration and sanctification of sinners,' have been decidedly received and honoured.

The means, in addition to the preaching of the word, which God has owned and blessed are, 'catechizing and prayer meetings.' And the Assembly hail it as an auspicious omen, that upon many of his people and churches, God has poured out a spirit of grace and supplication. We rejoice in being able to say that praying societies have considerably increased in the last twelve months. Let those who have been favoured with the effusions of the Holy Spirit, persevere, with increasing diligence, in the use of those means which it has pleased God to bless; and let those who are still in a state of languor and coldness, remember that it is only in the diligent use of the means appointed by God, that they can expect to obtain his blessing. We recommend this the more earnestly, dear brethren, because although the state of the Church on the whole is prospering, yet in some very extensive and populous regions of our country, religion declines, errors prevail, vice abounds, and souls are perishing. Let the friends of Jesus throughout our land, be united in one purpose, and, animated by one spirit, rise to more vigorous exertions for the promotion of vital piety. Let their time and their talents, and their all, be devoted to the cause of God and of Christ. God has done and promised enough to encourage our hopes, and animate our labours. The time is approaching, when Jesus will come in the glory and majesty of his grace, proceed from conquest to conquest, and fill the whole earth with his salvation. Try then, brethren, the utmost efficacy of prayer; and let every soul with fervour cry, 'Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.'"

Agreeably to a standing rule, nominations were made for delegates to attend the Associations of Connecticut and New Hampshire, and the Convention of Vermont.

*Resolved*, That the election be held for these delegates in the afternoon.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Agreeably to the order of the forenoon, the election was held for three delegates from this Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet at Ellington, the third Tuesday in June next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. Messrs. Joshua Leonard, James Inglis, and Dirck C. Lansing, were declared duly elected delegates to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut.

It being also the order for this afternoon, an election was held for delegates to attend the General Convention of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers in the State of Vermont, to meet at Brookfield, the first Tuesday in September next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin was declared duly elected to attend the aforesaid Convention; and the Rev. Daniel C. Hopkins was chosen his alternate.

It being also the order for this afternoon, an election was held for two delegates to attend the General Association of New Hampshire, to meet at Exeter, the third Wednesday in September next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. James Richards and Rev. John McDowell were declared duly elected to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish these delegates with attested copies of the above minutes, which shall serve as their commissions.

*Resolved*, That the delegates be allowed the compensation fixed by a former Assembly.

The Rev. James Boyd and Mr. Irwin were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Irwin, during his absence from his church on the delegation.

The Rev. Messrs. Hillyer and Alden were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpits of Messrs. Richards and McDowell, during their absence on their delegation.

It being the order of the day, an overture which had been before laid on the table by the Committee of Overtures, was read. This overture contained an appeal by the Rev. Francis Hindman from a decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, by which the Synod had confirmed a decision of the Presbytery of New Castle, by which the Presbytery had deposed said Mr. Hindman from the gospel ministry.

The minutes of the Synod and of the Presbytery on the subject, were read.

Mr. Grier resigned his seat to the Rev. John D. Perkins, the alternate mentioned in his commission.

Messrs. Ralston and Hopkins had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Perkins being present took his seat as a member.

The meeting for special prayer, agreeably to the resolution on Monday, was duly attended, and the audience was numerous, solemn, and attentive.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk be authorized, and he is hereby authorized, to have immediately printed, at the expense of the Assembly, 1000 copies of the narrative on the state of religion, that had been approved by the Assembly, that they may be distributed among the members previously to the dissolution of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey reported, and the book was approved to page 243, inclusive.

The subject of Mr. Hindman's appeal was resumed; and Mr. Hindman was heard to considerable length in support of his appeal, and the members of the Synod replied in defence of their decision.

Mr. Armstrong resigned his seat to the Rev. John Cornell, the alternate mentioned in his commission.

Mr. Ross obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Cornell being present took his seat as a member.

The Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly, made the following statement to the Assembly, which by the direction of the Assembly was transcribed into the minutes, and is as follows:

"The Treasurer of the Trustees respectfully begs leave to represent to the Rev. General Assembly, that he experiences considerable embarrassment, and the funds suffer loss in consequence of the members of the remote Presbyteries bringing all kinds of bank notes, and of all denominations, the greater part of which are not negotiable in this city. An uncommon number of bills below $5 have been brought, which could not have been disposed of but by the favour of one of the Trustees, Jonathan Smith, Esq., Cashier of the Bank of Pennsylvania.

Of the money received this session, $20 are counterfeit; $6 doubtful, and are returned to the Treasurer; $45 also doubtful, but will be sent to the bank whose name they bear, and if found to be counterfeits will be returned to him, he having endorsed them with his own name; $55 are of unincorporated banks; $16 supposed to be good, but of such distant banks that they are not negotiable here. Total on Treasurer's hands $142.

The Treasurer, therefore, respectfully submits to the Assembly, the propriety of adopting the following resolution, viz:

*Resolved*, That it be, and it hereby is enjoined on all persons having money collected for the funds of the Assembly, that they endeavour to procure notes of the incorporated banks of the cities of New York, Baltimore, or Philadelphia, and that they bring forward no notes below five dollars.

The committee appointed to ascertain whether a more convenient place could be obtained and prepared for the accommodation of the next General Assembly, reported that they had attended to this duty; that a room had been shown to them in a retired place, central in its situation, on the second floor, light, and sufficiently large for the accommodation of at least one hundred and fifty persons; that the committee were assured that if the Assembly approve of holding their future sessions in the place above described, the room will be fitted up with chairs and desks, &c. so as greatly to promote the accommodation of the General Assemblies, that may hereafter meet in this city.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Miller and Mr. Bayard be a committee to wait on the gentlemen who had offered to prepare accommodations for the General Assembly, and to present them the thanks of this body, and inform them that they accept of their offer.

The subject of Mr. Hindman's appeal was resumed, and the parties were again heard to considerable length.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Martin resigned his seat to the Rev. Charles Wallace, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Wallace took his seat as a member.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas, reported, and the book was approved to page 46 inclusive, except the reference and appeal in the case of Mr. Davis, then pending before the Assembly, on which it was therefore thought improper at this time to pass an opinion.

Mr. Perine resigned his seat to the Rev. Amzi Armstrong, the principal mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Armstrong took his seat as a member.

Messrs. Thompson and Levis obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The subject of Mr. Hindman's appeal was again resumed, and the parties were heard till they respectively declared they had nothing farther to offer: and the parties were directed to withdraw till the subject be decided by the Assembly.

Mr. Lenox obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Four o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The subject of Mr. Hindman's appeal was again resumed. The Assembly having maturely considered the same,

*Resolved*, That the sentence of the Synod of Philadelphia, affirming the sentence of the Presbytery of New Castle, by which Mr. Hindman was deposed from the gospel ministry, be sustained.

Messrs. Arthur and Bayard obtained leave of absence from the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 26, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia, reported, and the book was approved to page 78 inclusive, vol. iii.

The committee appointed to obtain a report from Mr. Burch, relative to the success of a memorial from the last General Assembly, which he was appointed to present to the Legislature of North Carolina, reported, that Mr. Burch had presented the memorial to the Legislature, and had been informed by the chairman of the committee to which the memorial had been referred, that the committee would report to the Legislature in favour of it.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. William McPheeters, and Mr. William Shaw, be appointed a committee to present the memorial to the Legislature of North Carolina, at their next sessions, and endeavour to obtain the object of the petition.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk transcribe a copy of the memorial, and forward it to the committee.

An appeal by the Rev. William C. Davis, from a decision of the Synod of the Carolinas, in relation to a decision in his case by the First Presbytery of South Carolina, and a reference from said Synod on the same case, which had been before overtured, were called up and read.

The parties were heard at full length, and agreeably to the vote of the Assembly, withdrew.

Messrs. Dixon and Evans obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The subjects of Mr. Davis's appeal, and the Synod of the Carolinas' reference were resumed, and after some discussion were referred to Messrs. Richards, Robert G. Wilson, and McDowell, as a committee to report a resolution to be adopted by the Assembly.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 28*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Committee on the Commissioners' Fund brought in the following report, which was adopted, viz :

That the following is a statement of the Presbyteries which have this year paid into the Commissioners' Fund, together with the sums paid by each, viz:

By Presbytery of Philadelphia, $143.28. New Castle, 32.18. New York, 252.63. Washington, 38.38. Concord, 43.12. Oneida, 35.32. New Brunswick, 90.75. Hudson, 86.66. Jersey, 125.93. Lewes, 23.26. Geneva, 44.05. Carlisle, 100.00. Columbia, 17.83. W. Lexington, 43.00. Erie, 21.88. Hartford, 25.38. Middle Association, 17.28. 1st Presbytery of South Carolina, 58.30. Presbytery of Lancaster, 23.62. Huntingdon, 28.00. Albany, 66.00. Baltimore, 18.00. Ohio, 64.88. Londonderry, 33.54. Redstone, 46.00. Sum total, $1479.27.

*Resolved*, That the following sums be paid to the Commissioners, as hereafter specified, viz:

To Messrs. Neill, $26.16. Grant, 14.96. Baldwin, 14.68. VanDoren, 14.96. Hopkins, 13.36. Bodel, 14.40. Linderman, 14.96. Walker, 69.10. Sharon, 9.60. Dr. Hall, 65.00. Messrs. Samuel F. Snowden, 39.10. Magraw, 6.40. McConnaughy, 12.80. Dixon, 12.26. Moody, 14.60. Evans, 6.40. Moorehead, 3.50. Rannels, 69.60. Scott, 50.56. Cook, 40.96. Linn, 22.00. Cathcart, 9.60. Tait, 50.00. William C. Davis, 69.40. John M. Wilson, 64.75. Anderson, 34.60. McDowell, 8.00. Richards, 8.28. Condict, 9.60. Perine, 9.60. Ogden, 12.26. Thompson, 9.60. Jacob Davis, 8.00. Parcel, 8.28. Drs. Miller, 9.60. Romeyn, 9.60. Clark, 5.10. Messrs. Lewis, 9.60. Armstrong, 3.20. Benjamin Smith, 3.20. Rice, 4.00. J. V. Brown, 3.50. Guthrie, 32.00. Hunter, 27.50. Chapman, 48.71. Mosher, 47.71. Wade, 47.71. Lansing, 43.16. Leonard, 41.25. Linklean, 41.25. Elmer, 4.80. Matthew Brown, 33.00. Givin, 31.71. Martin, 8.00. Williamson, 16.38. Younglove, 27.50. Robert G. Wilson, 53.10. Arthur, 5.83. Hutton, 26.16. Monteith, 27.05. Monro, 12.00. Chandler, 8.00. Osborn, 5.32. Cook, 6.00. Sum total, $1479.27.

N. B. Mr. Guthrie is to receive his allowance by an order on the Presbytery of Redstone, and Mr. Anderson is to receive $14.00 in the same way; and the balance of the allowance made him from the Commissioners' Fund.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue warrants for the payment of the foregoing sums, as above stated.

The committee appointed to report a resolution on the subjects of the appeal of Mr. Davis, and the reference of the Synod of the Carolinas, submitted a resolution which not being adopted, the following resolution was proposed and adopted:

The Assembly having maturely considered the appeal of Mr. Davis from the proceeding of the Synod of the Carolinas in his case,

*Resolved*, That although they highly approve of the zeal of the Synod to preserve the purity and peace of the church within their bounds; yet they cannot but decide that in their proceedings in the above case, in deciding that they had a right to try Mr. Davis when there was no reference nor appeal in his case before them, they had not strictly adhered to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church.

The Committee of Missions made their second report, and it was referred to the committee to which the first report had been referred; with this alteration, that Mr. Amzi Armstrong was appointed in the place of Mr. Speece, who requested to be excused from attending to the business.

Mr. Bodel from this time, and Dr. Muir after to-morrow, had leave of absence, during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The overture from the Synod of the Carolinas, which had been laid on the table, referring to the Assembly an overture laid before that Synod, requesting their attention to a late publication of the Rev. William C. Davis, denominated "The Gospel Plan," was read; and Messrs. Robert G. Wilson, Calhoun, and Anderson, were appointed a committee to examine said book, and report to this Assembly, the doctrines it contains, if any such they find, that are contrary to the standards of the Presbyterian Church.

Agreeably to a standing rule, the Presbyteries were called upon to state what they had severally done, in pursuance of the regulations of the General Assembly on the subject of inquiry for poor and pious young men, who may promise usefulness in the gospel ministry, and are willing to devote themselves to it; and raising a fund for their education.

Messrs. McDowell and Janeway were appointed a committee to take the reports received on the subject, and report a statement agreeably to the order of a former Assembly.

The committee to which the second report of the Committee of Missions had been referred, made the following report, which was adopted, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be authorized to pay to the Rev. Gideon Blackburn the sum of $66.66 for two months missionary service, which he performed as part of the mission assigned to the Rev. Joseph Lapsley, who had been prevented by indisposition from fulfilling his appointment.

2. That the Rev. Abiel Jones be appointed a missionary for three months, and that he be directed to commence his route on the head waters of Lake Champlain and Scroon, and thence to continue his course down the west side of Lake Champlain, till he reach the north boundary of the county of Essex.

3. That the Rev. Enoch Whipple be employed as a missionary for three months; and that he commence his labours in the southern settlements of the county of Clinton, and thence pursue his route north and west, until he arrive at the river St. Lawrence.

4. That the Rev. John Lindsley be appointed a missionary for three months in the counties of Tioga, Ontario, and Steuben; and that he be directed to visit two congregations, the one at Owego, and the other at Sparta, and Danville, who have engaged to defray the expenses of any services that may be rendered to them.

5. That the Rev. Jedediah Chapman be employed as a missionary for three months in Genesee, at discretion.

6. That the Presbytery of Albany be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, on missionary ground, within their limits.

7. That the Presbytery of Geneva be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, on missionary ground, within their bounds.

8. That the Presbytery of Hudson be authorized to employ a missionary or missionaries for three months, on missionary ground, within their limits.

9. That the Presbytery of New York be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, on missionary ground, within their bounds.

10. That Mr. Samuel Porter be appointed a missionary for six weeks, on the Peninsula, between the Delaware and Chesapeake bays, and the ocean; and that after the fulfilment of this mission, he be appointed a missionary for three months to the north; and that in the execution of this latter mission, he be directed to begin his route a few miles above Easton; that he visit the destitute settlements on both sides of the Delaware; that he pursue his course till he reach the New York line, and thence advance till he arrive at a congregation in Owego; and there spend as much time, more than his three months, as the congregation may be willing to allow him compensation for.

11. That the Presbytery of Huntingdon be authorized to employ a missionary for two months, on missionary ground, within their limits.

12. That the Rev. Samuel Tait be appointed a missionary for three months, between the Allegheny and Lake Erie.

13. That Mr. James H. Dickey be appointed a missionary for three months, between the Sciota and the Wabash rivers, at discretion; and one month in Boone county, Kentucky.

14. That the Presbytery of Baltimore be authorized to employ a missionary or missionaries for six months in the city of Washington, and at Bladensburgh.

15. That the Rev. Alexander Cook be appointed a missionary for three months, within the limits of the Presbyteries of Hartford and Lancaster.

16. That Mr. John Smith be appointed a missionary for four months in the Natchez, particularly in Madison county.

17. That the Rev. Thomas Cleland be appointed a missionary for four months in Louisiana; or if not convenient to take this mission, then for three months in that tract of country which lies between the Rolling Fork and Green rivers, and on other missionary ground, at discretion.

18. That the Rev. Samuel Finley be appointed a missionary for four months, two of which to be spent in the bounds of the late Cumberland Presbytery, and two at discretion in places that justly require missionary labours.

19. That the Rev. Gideon Blackburn be appointed a missionary for three months on the waters of Duck and Elk rivers, and in other destitute settlements in the new purchase.

20. That the West Lexington Presbytery be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, on missionary ground, within their limits.

21. That the Rev. John H. Rice be appointed a missionary for three months to the blacks in Charlotte county, Virginia, and parts adjacent.

22. That the Rev. Nash Le Grand be appointed a missionary for three months within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hanover; and that the Committee of Missions of the Synod of Virginia be requested to prescribe his route.

23. That Mr. Joseph Logan be appointed a missionary for three months in the Northern Neck, in Virginia; and that his route, and the time of performing his mission, be determined by the Committee of Missions of the Synod of Virginia.

24. That John Gloucester be appointed a missionary for three months to the blacks in Philadelphia.

25. That the Committee of Missions be authorized to appoint a missionary or missionaries for three months in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and country adjacent; and another for three months in that region which lies between Woodbury and Cape May, New Jersey.

26. That the Rev. Jeremiah Abel be appointed a missionary for two months in the counties of Cumberland and Wayne, Kentucky.

27. That the Committee of Missions be authorized to appoint a missionary for three months on the peninsula lying between the Delaware and the Chesapeake bays and ocean.

28. That the Trustees of the General Assembly be authorized and directed to pay, when the circumstances of the funds will admit, four hundred dollars to the Board of Trust of the Synod of Pittsburgh for the support of the Indian mission under their care; and if it shall appear consistent with the state of the funds, after provision shall have been made to satisfy generally the other appropriations for missionary services, the Trustees be authorized and directed to pay, upon the recommendation of the Committee of Missions, one hundred dollars more toward the promoting of the important design above mentioned.

29. That the Committee of Missions be authorized to employ as many more missionaries as the funds will bear; and particularly that they be authorized to send a missionary to the Cherokee nation, and if necessary, appropriate to that mission as much money as has hitherto been appropriated.

30. That the Trustees of the General Assembly be empowered and directed to cancel the instrument of agreement between them and Mr. William P. Farrand, on the subject of the Magazine, entitled, "The Evangelical Intelli-

gencer," the publication of which has been suspended since the month of January last.

31. *Resolved* moreover, That as, in the opinion of this Assembly, some publication is necessary to keep alive and invigorate that missionary spirit with which it has pleased God to animate his church, the Committee of Missions be authorized, if they judge it expedient, annually to prepare and publish for the information of the churches, a pamphlet or pamphlets entitled "Missionary Intelligence," containing extracts from the journals of the Assembly's missionaries, and information derived from domestic and foreign sources.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries make out supplies for the pulpits of those of their members, during their mission, who have pastoral charges, and who are appointed missionaries.

The committee appointed to make a minute, stating the attention which the Presbyteries, from their reports, appeared to have paid to the resolutions of the Assembly in relation to the selection of young men for the ministry, and providing funds for their education, made the following report, which was adopted, viz:

"That it appeared from the vote of the Assembly, that the Presbyteries of Geneva, Oneida, Columbia, Albany, Hudson, New York, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Huntingdon, Redstone, Ohio, Hanover, Second Presbytery of South Carolina, Concord, Winchester, and Washington, had fully attended to the recommendations of the Assembly, and had done their duty.

That the Presbyteries of Londonderry, Erie, Lancaster, Hartford, West Lexington, Lexington, and Middle Association, had not carried the recommendation of the Assembly into effect, but assigned such reasons as were satisfactory to the Assembly, and they were therefore excused.

And that the Presbyteries of Carlisle, Lewes, Baltimore, and the First Presbytery of South Carolina, had neglected their duty on this subject.

From the Presbyteries of Transylvania, Union, Hopewell, Orange, and Harmony, no reports were received.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 29th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Condict obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to review the book lately published by Mr. Davis, reported, and the report was read, and each article separately was discussed, and being proposed, was voted upon by the Assembly.

This was followed by a resolution, which was laid on the table for future discussion and consideration.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The committee appointed to present to the Assembly a compendious view of Presbyterial reports, brought in their report, which, being read, was accepted, and an order was passed that the Stated Clerk transcribe it into the book procured for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk forward blank forms of Presbyterial reports this year to the Presbyteries, connected with the printed extracts.

*Resolved*, That the committee appointed to make extracts from the minutes to be printed, be directed to have printed in an appendix to the extracts, the sum total of the compendious view for the present year, except collections, and also the supplement to that view brought in by the committee, and adopted by the Assembly.

The report of the committee appointed to review Mr. Davis's book entitled the *Gospel Plan*, was again read, and the vote being taken on the whole, it was adopted, and is as follows:

The resolution laid on the table in the morning was also adopted and follows the report:

"The committee, presuming that a complete and perfect enumeration of all the objectionable parts of said book is not expected, calls the attention of the Assembly only to the following doctrines, supposed to be contrary to the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church:

Doctrine 1. That the active obedience of Christ constitutes no part of that righteousness by which a sinner is justified: see pages of said book 257, 261, and 264, 3d corollary.

Doctrine 2. That obedience to the moral law was not required as the condition of the covenant of works: see pages 178 and 180.

The foresaid pages being read, it was, on motion,

*Resolved*, That this Assembly do consider these doctrines as contrary to the Confession of Faith of our Church.

Doctrine 3. God himself is as firmly bound in duty, (not obedience,) to his creatures, as his creatures are bound in obedience or duty to him: see pages 164 and 166; also, that God's will is not the standard of right and wrong. If God's will is the primary rule of his own actions, he would be, 1st, entirely void of holiness; 2d, there could be no justice in God; 3d, it would be impossible for God to be unchangeable; 4th, if the will of God is the standard of right and wrong, then it would be no infringement on the divine character to be unfaithful to his word and promise: see pages 168—171. These pages were read.

*Resolved*, That, without deciding on the question whether these sentiments are contrary to our Confession of Faith, the Assembly consider the mode in which they are expressed, as unhappy, and calculated to mislead the reader.

Doctrine 4. God could not make Adam, or any other creature, either holy or unholy: see page 194 compared with 166.

Doctrine 5. Regeneration must be a consequence of faith. Faith precedes regeneration: see page 352.

Doctrine 6. That faith, in the first act of it, is not a holy act: see page 358, &c.

The pages above referred to being read, it was, on motion,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly do consider the three last mentioned doctrines contrary to the Confession of Faith of our Church.

Doctrine 7. That Christians may sin wilfully and habitually: see pages 532 and 534. These pages were read.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly consider the expressions, in the pages referred to, as very unguarded; and so far as they intimate it to be the author's opinion, that a person may live in an habitual and allowed sin, and yet be a Christian, the Assembly considers them contrary to the letter and spirit of the Confession of Faith of our Church, and in their tendency, highly dangerous.

Doctrine 8. If God has to plant all the principal parts of salvation in a sinner's heart, to enable him to believe, the gospel plan is quite out of his reach, and consequently does not suit his case; and it must be impossible for God to condemn a man for unbelief, for no just law condemns or criminates any person for not doing what he cannot do: see page 413. This page and several others on the same subject being read,

*Resolved,* That the Assembly do consider this last mentioned doctrine, contrary to the Confession of Faith of our Church.

On the whole, *Resolved,* That this Assembly cannot but view with disapprobation, various parts of the work entitled, the "Gospel Plan," of which William C. Davis is stated in the title page to be the author. In several instances in this work, modes of expression are adopted, so different from those which are sanctioned by use, and by the best orthodox writers, that the Assembly consider them as calculated to produce useless or mischievous speculations.

In several other instances, there are doctrines asserted and advocated, as has been already decided, contrary to the Confession of Faith of our Church, and the word of God; which doctrines the Assembly feel constrained to pronounce to be of very dangerous tendency: and the Assembly do judge, and hereby do declare, that the preaching or publishing them, ought to subject the person or persons so doing, to be dealt with by their respective Presbyteries, according to the discipline of the Church relative to the propagation of errors.

The committee appointed to present to the Assembly a plan for the establishment of a Theological School, reported, and the report was laid on the table.

A letter from the Rev. Thomas L. Birch, soliciting a reconsideration of the minute of a former Assembly, in his case, addressed to the Moderator, was read; after some discussion on the subject, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 30*th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to consider the order of the last General Assembly, respecting the examination of session books; and also the remonstrance of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, requesting this Assembly to review said order, brought in their report, which was read and adopted, and is as follows:

"The Assembly, after seriously reviewing the order of the last Assembly, and maturely deliberating on the remonstrance of the Presbytery of Philadelphia against it, can by no means rescind the said order, inasmuch as they consider it as founded on the constitution of our church, and as properly resulting from the obligation on the highest judicatory of the church to see that the constitution be duly regarded: yet, as it is alleged, that insisting on the rigid execution of this order, with respect to some of the church sessions, would not be for edification, the Assembly are by no means disposed to urge any Presbytery to proceed under this order, beyond what they may consider prudent and useful."

The committee appointed farther to consider the subject of Theological Schools, reported, and the report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That after maturely deliberating on the subject committed to them, they submit to the Assembly the following results:

1. It is evident that not only a majority of the Presbyteries, which have reported on this subject, but also a majority of all the Presbyteries under the care of this Assembly, have expressed a decided opinion in favour of the establishment of a Theological School or Schools in our Church.

2. It appears to the committee, that although according to the statement already reported to the Assembly, there is an equal number of Presbyteries

in favour of the first plan, which contemplates a single school for the whole Church; and in favour of the third plan, which contemplates the erection of a school in each Synod; yet as several of the objections made to the first plan are founded entirely on misconception, and will be completely obviated by developing the details of that plan, it seems fairly to follow, that there is a greater amount of Presbyterial suffrage in favour of a single school, than of any other plan.

3. Under these circumstances the committee are of opinion, that as much light has been obtained from the reports of Presbyteries on this subject, as would be likely to result from a renewal of the reference; that no advantage will probably arise from farther delay in this important concern; but, on the contrary, much serious inconvenience and evil; that the present Assembly is bound to attempt to carry into execution some one of the plans proposed, and that the first plan, appearing to have, on the whole, the greatest share of public sentiment in its favour, ought of course to be adopted.

4. Your committee therefore recommend, that the present General Assembly declare its approbation and adoption of this plan, and immediately commence a course of measures for carrying it into execution, as promptly and extensively as possible; and for this purpose they recommend to the Assembly the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the state of our churches, the loud and affecting calls of destitute frontier settlements, and the laudable exertions of various Christian denominations around us, all demand that the collected wisdom, piety, and zeal of the Presbyterian Church be, without delay, called into action, for furnishing the Church with a large supply of able and faithful ministers.

2. That the General Assembly will, in the name of the great Head of the Church, immediately attempt to establish a seminary for securing to candidates for the ministry, more extensive and efficient theological instruction than they have heretofore enjoyed. The local situation of this seminary is hereafter to be determined.

3. That in this seminary when completely organized, there shall be at least three Professors, who shall be elected by, and hold their offices during the pleasure of, the General Assembly, and who shall give a regular course of instruction in Divinity, Oriental and Biblical Literature, and in Ecclesiastical History and Church Government, and on such other subjects as may be deemed necessary. It being however understood, that until sufficient funds can be obtained for the complete organization and support of the proposed seminary, a smaller number of Professors than three may be appointed to commence the system of instruction.

4. That exertion be made to provide such an amount of funds for this seminary, as will enable its conductors to afford gratuitous instruction, and when it is necessary, gratuitous support, to all such students as may not themselves possess adequate pecuniary means.

5. That the Rev. Drs. Green, Woodhull, Romeyn, and Miller, the Rev. Messrs. Archibald Alexander, James Richards, and Amzi Armstrong, be a committee to digest and prepare a plan of a Theological Seminary, embracing in detail the fundamental principles of the institution, together with regulations for guiding the conduct of the instructors and the students, and prescribing the best mode of visiting, of controlling, and supporting the whole system. This plan is to be reported to the next General Assembly.

6. That the Rev. Messrs. Jedediah Chapman, Jonas Coe, William Morrison, James Carnahan, and Mr. Isaac Hutton, of the Synod of Albany; Rev. Drs. Samuel Miller, Philip Milledoler, John B. Romeyn, and Aaron Woolworth, the Rev. Messrs. James Richards, Comfort, and Isaac VanDoren, and Col. Henry Rutgers, of the Synod of New York and New Jersey; Rev. Drs.

Ashbel Green, John McKnight, and James Muir, the Rev. Messrs. Nathaniel Irwin, John Glendy, Archibald Alexander, John E. Latta, John B. Slemmons, John B. Patterson, and James Inglis, and Mr. Robert Ralston, of the Synod of Philadelphia; the Rev. John D. Blair, William Williamson, Samuel Houston, Samuel Doake, and Benjamin Grisby, of the Synod of Virginia; the Rev. Samuel Ralston, James Guthrie, William Speer, and James Hughes, of the Synod of Pittsburgh; the Rev. Robert G. Wilson, James Blythe, Archibald Cameron, and Joshua L. Wilson, of the Synod of Kentucky; the Rev. Drs. James Hall, and Henry Kollock, and the Rev. Messrs. Malcom McNair, James McIlhenny, and Andrew Flinn, of the Synod of the Carolinas, be, and they hereby are, appointed agents, to solicit donations in the course of the current year, within the bounds of their respective Synods, for the establishment and support of the proposed seminary; and if any of said agents should be unable or unwilling to act in this case, it will be his or their duty to inform the Moderator of his or their Synod, for the time being, who is hereby authorized, if he think proper, to appoint a substitute or substitutes, as the case may require. These agents are to report to the next General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the members of this Assembly generally, and all the clergy of our denomination within our bounds, do aid the exertions of those who shall go on this business.

7. That, as filling the Church with a learned and able ministry, without a corresponding portion of real piety, would be a curse to the world, and an offence to God and his people, so the General Assembly think it their duty to state that, in establishing a seminary for training up ministers, it is their earnest desire to guard, as far as possible, against so great an evil; and they do hereby solemnly pledge themselves to the churches under their care, that in forming and carrying into execution the plan of the proposed seminary, it will be their endeavour to make it, under the blessing of God, a nursery of vital piety, as well as of sound theological learning, and to train up persons for the ministry who shall be lovers as well as defenders of the truth as it is in Jesus, friends of revivals of religion, and a blessing to the Church of God.

8. That as the constitution of our church guarantees to every Presbytery the right of judging of its own candidates for licensure and ordination; so the Assembly think it proper to state most explicitly, that every Presbytery and Synod will, of course, be left at full liberty to countenance the proposed plan, or not, at pleasure; and to send their students to the projected seminary, or keep them, as heretofore, within their own bounds as they think most conducive to the prosperity of the church.

9. That the Professors in the Seminary shall not in any case be considered as having a right to license candidates to preach the gospel; but that all such candidates shall be remitted to their respective Presbyteries, to be examined and licensed as heretofore.

10. *Resolved* finally, That Dr. Samuel Miller and Rev. James Richards be a committee to prepare a draught of an address from this Assembly to the churches under our care, calling their attention to the subject of a Theological school, and earnestly soliciting their patronage and support in the execution of the plan now proposed.

The following persons were chosen, and appointed to serve as a standing Committee of Missions, for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia and its vicinity, the Rev. Drs. Blair, Green, and Wilson; Rev. Messrs. Alexander, Janeway, and Potts. Messrs. Boudinot, Hazard, Connelly, Haslett, and Robert Smith.

Of the Synod of Albany, the Rev. Jonas Coe.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Clark.
Of the Synod of Philadelphia, the Rev. Robert Cathcart.
Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, the Rev. James Hughes.
Of the Synod of Virginia, the Rev. John H. Rice.
Of the Synod of Kentucky, the Rev. James Blythe.
Of the Synod of the Carolinas, the Rev. William Paisley.

The Assembly having elected their standing Committee of Missions for the present year, did, and hereby do enjoin it on those members of said committee, who live at a distance from the place where the committee meet, to communicate to the committee in writing any information on the subject of missions which they may suppose will be useful, and especially within the bounds of that Synod to which the distant members may severally belong.

Upon inquiry it appeared that the Synod of Albany, of New York and New Jersey, and of Kentucky, had attended to the recommendation of last Assembly, on the subject of forming tract societies.

*Resolved*, That no election be held this year for Trustees of the General Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The subject of Mr. Birch's request was resumed. A letter was received from Mr. Birch, containing in addition to the concessions made yesterday, an unreserved acknowledgment of having done wrong in his conduct before the Assembly in 1803, and also in his publications against the Assembly; and farther expressing his hearty regret for his conduct in the above instances. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the foregoing concessions be deemed satisfactory to this Assembly.

An appeal by Mr. Wiley, post-master in Washington, Pennsylvania, from a decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, by which it is determined that Mr. Wiley's officiating as post-master on the Sabbath day, in existing circumstances, is a sufficient reason to exclude him from the special privileges of the church, was overtured and read. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the above decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh be affirmed. And it hereby is affirmed.

Two protests were brought in and read; one against the decision of the General Assembly, in the case of the appeal of the Rev. William C. Davis, from the proceedings of the Synod of the Carolinas; and the other against the decision of the Assembly, relative to sessional records. On motion,

*Resolved*, That these protests be put upon the files of the Assembly.

The following overture was brought in and read, viz: In what cases, except the one provided for in the 17th chapter of the Constitution of our Church, may a Presbytery ordain a man to the work of the gospel ministry, without a call to a particular charge? On motion,

*Resolved*, That this overture be referred, and recommended to the consideration of the next Assembly.

A reference from Bethel Church, South Carolina, was overtured, requesting the decision of the Assembly in relation to a case in which a person had married the sister of a deceased wife. On motion,

*Resolved*, That this reference be answered by the following decision of the Assembly of 1804:

"The Assembly having given repeated decisions on similar cases, cannot advise to annul such marriages, or pronounce them in such a degree unlawful as that the parties, if otherwise worthy, should be debarred from the prileges of the Church. But as a great diversity of opinion appears to exist on such questions, in different parts of the Church, so that no absolute rule can be enjoined with regard to them, that shall be universally binding and consistent with the peace of the Church; and as the cases in question are esteemed to be doubtful, the Assembly is constrained to leave it to the discretion of the inferior judicatories under their care, to act according to their own best light, and the circumstances in which they find themselves placed."

The committee appointed to draw up a letter to be addressed to the churches under the care of the Assembly on the subject of a Theological School, brought in the following letter, which being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, to the churches under their care:

*Dear Brethren:*—Among the various objects which have engaged our attention in the course of our present sessions, one of the most important is the plan of a Theological Seminary, proposed to be established in some convenient spot within the bounds of our Church. This plan, so far as it has been matured, accompanies the present address, and solicits your serious consideration.

We trust, dear brethren, it is not necessary to employ much argument to convince you that the time has arrived in which some new and vigorous exertions are indispensable for increasing the number, and raising the qualifications, of candidates for the gospel ministry in our Church; when you are apprized that we have near four hundred vacant congregations within our bounds; that the frontier settlements, as well as many large and important districts in the interior of our country, are every year calling upon us for missionary labours which we are not able to supply; and that there is no prospect that any means of relief yet devised will be sufficient to preserve many parts of the church from a most distressing famine of the word of life, we trust you will perceive the absolute necessity of using our utmost exertions for sending forth more labourers into so great a harvest.

We feel persuaded that if the plan which we have adopted can be carried into vigorous execution, it will tend, under the divine blessing, to increase the number of candidates for the holy ministry. If we are enabled, by the possession of suitable funds, not only to afford a more complete and ample course of instruction in theology than has been heretofore, in ordinary cases, attainable, but also to afford this instruction *gratuitously* to those who are themselves destitute of adequate pecuniary resources, we cherish the hope that these facilities will be the means of drawing into public view many ingenuous and pious youth, who are at present either discouraged from making the attempt to gain an education for the ministry, or not properly awakened to the loud and important demands of the Church.

But farther: such a seminary as that which is now proposed is not less calculated to *improve the education* than to increase the number of candidates for the sacred office. Without some provision of this kind, it is in most cases, utterly impossible to bring forward candidates for the ministry, with that furniture and those qualifications for their work which the state of society now renders, in a great measure, indispensable to their respectability and usefulness. It is to be hoped that we shall never cease to consider vital and experimental religion as the first and most indispensable qualification in every candidate for the holy ministry. All attainments without this, would unquestionably be not only inadequate but pernicious. Yet it must also be admitted, that piety alone cannot qualify a man to be a teacher of the gospel, especially in circumstances where the literary and scientific attainments of many avowed infidels, and the general improvement of almost all descriptions of people, will render it impossible for the religious teacher to maintain weight of character, and permanent influence, if his knowledge be scanty, and his literature circumscribed. The minister himself, in such a situation, will feel, and be disconcerted by a sense of his inferiority, and will neither speak with confidence in himself, nor in such a manner as to beget and preserve confidence in the minds of others.

Influenced by these considerations, it has been the universal custom of the Protestant churches in Europe, and of none more than of that church from which we derive our origin, to encourage a learned and pious ministry, and to institute schools for the purpose. These schools, particularly in Scotland and Holland, have been cherished with the greatest care ever since the time of the glorious Reformation, and have been attended with the happiest consequences; nor would it be difficult to prove that they have had a most important efficacy in preserving the influence of evangelical truth in those countries. Churches in this country derived from those of Scotland and Holland, and still more recently, our Congregational brethren in Massachusetts, have undertaken similar institutions, and have already begun to reap fruits of the most promising kind. Unless we imitate their laudable example, the consequences will probably be, that in a few years, while they rise and flourish, we shall decline, and fall into a state of discouraging weakness and inferiority.

Impressed with these convictions, and placed in these solemn circumstances, the Assembly have resolved, in the name, and as they trust, with an humble reliance on the aid of the great King of Zion, to go forward and attempt the execution of the plan, which will be herewith submitted to your consideration. They have preferred the establishment of a single school, to the erection of a great number, because after comparing the reports from the several Presbyteries, and the sentiments of commissioners to the Assembly from the various parts of the Church, there appeared every reason to believe that the former plan would be most acceptable and most generally approved; and also because they are of opinion, that this plan, by concentrating the strength and resources of the whole Church, will furnish a more complete system of education, and tend more than any other to promote the purity, peace, harmony, and vigour of the Presbyterian body in the United States.

And now, dear brethren, it depends, under God, on your patronage and liberality, whether the plan proposed shall be carried into execution; and if executed at all, whether with languor and comparative inutility, or with vigour and effect. To support several professors; to provide an adequate library; and to furnish the means of gratuitous instruction and boarding to a large number of poor and pious youth, will require large funds. For obtaining these, we have no human dependance but your liberality. And accordingly to solicit contributions in different portions of the Church, we have appointed agents who are directed to report the result of their solicitations to the next General Assembly.

We call upon you, Christian brethren, as the professed disciples of Christ, to consider the important crisis, and the momentous objects which are now brought to your view. You acknowledge that you are not your own, but that you are bought with a price, and are bound to glorify God in your bodies and spirits, which are his. If it be so, *your silver and your gold are the Lord's;* and you are under obligations to employ them in such a manner, as will most effectually promote the glory of him, by whose bounty they were given you. With this great principle in view, consider the pressing calls of large and flourishing churches, who solicit in vain for ministers to break to them the bread of life. Consider the loud and affecting cries of many destitute settlements, which know nothing of those precious privileges with which you are surrounded. Consider the honour of the Church, with which you are connected; the interests of religion, for which you profess to feel; the infinite value of immortal souls, who are perishing for lack of knowledge; the authority of that God who commands you to compassionate them; and the guilt which you will contract if the health of the church should languish, or souls perish, by your negligence or parsimony. Consider these things, and then say whether you can consent to withhold a portion of your substance when called upon to aid in one of the most important concerns ever presented to your consideration.

Brethren, we leave this subject for your solemn and prayerful deliberation. Praying that He who has the hearts of all flesh in his hands, may dispose you to do that which is well pleasing in his sight, and honourable to your Christian profession; and that grace, mercy, and peace, may be multiplied unto you from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, we are, in the bonds of the gospel, your friends and brethren.

Signed by order of the Assembly.

JOHN B. ROMEYN, *Moderator.*"

The Stated Clerk was directed to have printed five hundred copies of the plan for a Theological School, and of the letter on the subject, and a number of subscription papers.

Adjourned till 6 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May* 31*st*, 6 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The Presbytery of Hartford stated to the Assembly, that in their opinion it would be advantageous to the cause of religion, to ordain Mr. Robert Sample, *sine titulo*, and requested leave thus to ordain him; whereupon,

*Resolved*, That said Presbytery be permitted to ordain Mr. Sample, provided they judge it expedient.

*Resolved*, That fifty copies of the printed extracts of the minutes of this Assembly be sent by the delegates from the Assembly to the Convention of Vermont, and the Association of New Hampshire, to each twenty-five copies.

The Assembly being informed that a mistake had been made, in the report of the Committee of Missions, relative to the balance due to the Rev. Lemuel Smith, it was

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly should issue a warrant in his favour for ten dollars.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk for his services, agreeably to the rate fixed by the Assembly of 1806, for the stationery furnished by him for the use of the General Assembly, and for a box procured to hold their papers.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue a warrant for the payment of twenty-five dollars and fifty cents, to Joseph Jacobs, for twelve and a half days' service rendered the Assembly during the present sessions, and for articles furnished by him for their use.

The roll being called agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain if any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was determined that none be reported this year to their Presbyteries, as delinquents in this case.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the Second Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday in May next, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, therefore, dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution. Concluded with prayer.

### SUMMARY FOR 1810.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Londonderry, | 11 | 1 | 12 | 594 | $128 |
| Middle Association, | 18 | 1 | 20 | 453 | 17 |
| Geneva, | 14 | — | 11 | 254 | 47 |
| Oneida, | 5 | — | 12 | 299 | 78 |
| Albany, | 11 | — | 15 | 982 | 210 |
| Columbia, | 11 | — | 16 | 731 | 118 |
| Hudson, | 17 | 1 | 24 | 1254 | 212 |
| Long Island, | 11 | 5 | 14 | 534 | 277 |
| New York, | 8 | 1 | 8 | 600 | 750 |
| Jersey, | 26 | — | 22 | 3300 | 731 |
| New Brunswick, | 23 | 7 | 32 | 2182 | 510 |
| Philadelphia, | 19 | 1 | 28 | 1957 | 517 |
| New Castle, | 20 | 1 | 34 | 796 | 167 |
| Carlisle, | 24 | — | 31 | 2553 | 215 |
| Lewes, | 4 | — | 19 | 436 | 39 |
| Baltimore, | 10 | — | 8 | 273 | — |
| Huntingdon, | 14 | 1 | 36 | 488 | 61 |
| Redstone, | 16 | 1 | 38 | 549 | 203 |
| Ohio, | 21 | 3 | 39 | 2925 | 495 |
| Hartford, | 12 | 4 | 27 | 664 | 25 |
| Erie, | 11 | — | 31 | 455 | 21 |
| Lancaster, | 8 | — | 24 | 261 | 23 |
| Hanover, | 12 | 4 | 19 | 403 | 201 |
| Winchester, | 6 | 3 | 21 | 377 | 137 |
| Lexington, | 13 | 4 | 24 | 1240 | 118 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | | |
| West Lexington. No report. | | | | | |
| Washington, | 13 | 2 | 42 | 825 | 89 |
| Transylvania, | 19 | 3 | 30 | 651 | 50 |
| Orange, | 16 | 7 | 36 | 1468 | — |
| Concord, | 14 | 1 | 31 | — | — |
| 1st, South Carolina, | 9 | — | 24 | 560 | — |
| 2d, do., | 9 | — | 24 | 619 | — |
| Hopewell, | 5 | — | 11 | 218 | — |
| Union. No report. | | | | | |
| Harmony, | 4 | — | 9 | — | — |
| Total, | 434 | 51 | 772 | 28,901 | $5,439 |

## 1811.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 16*th*, 1811.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met agreeably to appointment, in the Second Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and was opened by the Rev. John B. Romeyn, the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from Eph. iv. 3 : "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz :

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. Joseph Merrill, and the Rev. Oliver Ayer. Mr. Henry Axtell, elder.

Presbytery of Cayuga—The Rev. Hezekiah N. Woodruff.

Presbytery of Onondaga—The Rev. John Davenport.

Presbytery of Oneida—The Rev. James Carnahan, and Rev. Andrew Oliver.

Presbytery of Columbia—The Rev. Robert H. Chapman. Mr. Abraham Vantuyl, elder.

Presbytery of Albany—The Rev. Simon Hosack, and Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D. Mr. Gilbert Stewart, elder.

Presbytery of Hudson—The Rev. John Clark, Rev. Thomas Grier, Rev. Charles Cummins, and Rev. John Johnston. Mr. Enoch Jackson, elder.

Presbytery of New York—The Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D. Messrs. John Mills, and Divie Bethune, elders.

Presbytery of Long Island—The Rev. David S. Bogart.

Presbytery of Jersey—The Rev. Thomas Picton, Rev. Elias Riggs, Rev. Samuel Fisher, and Rev. Barnabas King. Messrs. Benjamin Cory, Jesse Cutler, and David Magie, elders.

Presbytery of New Brunswick—The Rev. Samuel S. Smith, D. D., Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., Rev. Joseph Clark, D. D., Rev. Robert Finley, and Rev. George S. Woodhull. Messrs. John S. Skillman, James Dunham, Moses Scott, S. Bayard, and C. Clark, elders.

Presbytery of Philadelphia—The Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., and Rev. William Latta. Messrs. Benjamin Wick, Samuel Morrow, John Connelly, John Mann, elders.

Presbytery of New Castle—The Rev. Nathan Grier, Rev. Francis A. Latta, Rev. Nathaniel F. Snowden, and Rev. Robert White. Messrs. Samuel Barr, Michael Graham, Robert McCleland, Samuel Cochran, elders.

Presbytery of Carlisle—The Rev. Robert Cathcart, Rev. Robert Kennedy, and Rev. James Buchannan.

Presbytery of Lewes—The Rev. John B. Slemons.

Presbytery of Baltimore—The Rev. John Glendy, Rev. John Brackenridge. Messrs. Christopher Johnson, William Nance, elders.

Presbytery of Huntingdon—The Rev. William Kennedy, Rev. Asa Dunham. Mr. James Knox, elder.

Presbytery of Redstone—The Rev. George Hill, Rev. Thomas Hunt, Rev. William Swan. Mr. George Plumlin, elder.

Presbytery of Erie—The Rev. William Woods.

Presbytery of Lancaster—The Rev. John Wright.

Presbytery of Hartford—The Rev. Johnston Eaton, and Rev. Alexander Cook.

Presbytery of Ohio—The Rev. Joseph Anderson, and Rev. Joseph Patterson.

Presbytery of Winchester—The Rev. Andrew A. Shannon.

Presbytery of Lexington—The Rev. Andrew B. Davidson.

Presbytery of Washington—The Rev. James Hoge.

Presbytery of West Lexington—The Rev. John P. Campbell.

Presbytery of Grange—The Rev. William Paisley.

Presbytery of Concord—The Rev. Joseph D. Kilpatrick.

Presbytery of Abingdon—The Rev. James Black.

Presbytery of Harmony—The Rev. John Couser.

Presbytery of Miami—The Rev. M. G. Wallace.

Of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, the Rev. Walter King, Rev. Ebenezer Porter, and Rev. David Smith produced a certificate of their appointment as delegates to represent that body in this Assembly, and accordingly took their seats as members.

Of the General Convention of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers in the State of Vermont, the Rev. Bancroft Fowler produced a certificate of his appointment as a delegate to represent that body in this Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

Of the General Association of New Hampshire, the Rev. Eli Smith, and Rev. John Smith, produced a certificate of their appointment as delegates to represent that body in this Assembly, and took their seats as members.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a Moderator and Temporary Clerk, and the Rev. Dr. Eliphalet Nott was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart was chosen Temporary Clerk.

The minutes of the last Assembly were read.

A proposal from the General Association of Massachusetts proper was made by the Rev. Joseph Lyman, D. D., and the Rev. Samuel Worcester, delegates appointed for that purpose, for the establishment of a union between them and this Assembly, similar to that subsisting between the Association of Massachusetts proper, and the Associations of Connecticut and New Hampshire. The certificate of their appointment, and the articles of union with said Association were read.

The articles of said union are as follows:

"1. The General Association of Connecticut and the General Association of Massachusetts proper shall annually appoint each two delegates to the other.

2. The delegates shall be admitted in each body to the same rights of sitting, debating, and voting with their own members respectively.

3. It shall be understood that the articles of agreement and connection between the two bodies, may be at any time varied by their own consent."

The same articles were adopted in their connection with the Association of New Hampshire.

The delegates stated that the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly was adopted as the basis of their union, and by answering several questions proposed to them, fully satisfied the Assembly relative to the standard of their faith, and the object of their Association: whereupon,

*Resolved*, unanimously, That said union be formed.

And it accordingly was formed.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Lyman and the Rev. Samuel Worcester be enrolled as members of this Assembly.

And they took their seats accordingly.

Agreed, That on next Monday morning the Assembly will enter into a free conversation on the state of religion.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in the First Presbyterian Church in special prayer and other religious exercises; and that Dr. Clark, and Messrs. Irwin and George S. Woodhull be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

The Rev. Mr. Hosack, Dr. Woodhull, and the Rev. Messrs. Nathan Grier, Hill, Shannon, Campbell, Kilpatrick, Walter King, Fowler, Eli Smith, Dr. Lyman, and Messrs. Stewart, Mills, Wicks, Bethune, Skillman, and Barr, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this place to morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournment.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Miller, and Romeyn, and Mr. Connelly, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Hosack, Chapman, and Stewart, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Clark, and Messrs. Finley, and Scott, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Francis A. Latta, Kennedy, and Johnson, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Hoge, Fisher, and Vance, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Snowden, Buchannan, and Magie, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Picton, Barnabas, King, and Cutler, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 17*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick; the Rev. William Swan, of the Presbytery of Redstone; the Rev. John Wright, of the Presbytery of Lancaster; and Mr. David Olmstead, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of Onondaga, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The Rev. Joshua Leonard, and the Rev. James Inglis, two of the delegates appointed to attend the last meeting of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, reported, that they had attended at the time and place of meeting.

The Rev. James Richards, and the Rev. John McDowell, the delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the Association of New Hampshire, reported, that they had attended at the time and place of meeting, and that the following persons were appointed a committee to certify the regular standing of ministers and candidates travelling from the state of New Hampshire into other parts of the United States, viz: the Rev. Elihu Thayer, D. D., the Rev. Asa McFarland, and the Rev. Abijah Wines.

The Synods that manage the missionary business were called upon to state whether they had, agreeably to the order of the Assembly, reported to the Committee of Missions on the subject.

The Synod of Virginia, the Carolinas, and of Pittsburgh, stated that they had reported.

The Synodical reports from the Synods of Albany, of New York and New Jersey, of Pittsburgh, of Kentucky, of Virginia, and of the Carolinas, and the duplicate Presbyterial reports, were received; and Messrs. Picton, Hosack, and John Johnston, were appointed a committee to compare these reports together, and others which may be received, digest the whole, and read to the Assembly those parts which the committee may deem necessary to be read.

The committee appointed by the Assembly to dispose of the interest due on moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, reported that agreeably to their appointment they met with a committee of said trustees, and appropriated the same, amounting to thirty-three dollars and eighty-one cents, to the use of a young man in college, studying with a view to the gospel ministry.

*Resolved*, That the same committee, viz: the Rev. David Comfort and the Rev. Isaac V. Brown, be continued, and report to the next Assembly.

The Presbyteries were called upon to state the sums they had severally forwarded to the Commissioners' Fund, and Dr. Clark and Messrs. Bethune and Gilbert Stewart were appointed a committee to make a statement of the sums paid by the several Presbyteries, and report the statement to the Assembly, and make a distribution of said fund, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

A report was received from the agent appointed to make application to the legislature of North Carolina, to relinquish the claim of taxes upon the lands in that State belonging to the Assembly, stating that he applied, but did not succeed, and that there was no prospect of success.

A Book of Rules was received, which had been prepared by the Stated Clerk, agreeably to the order of a former Assembly.

Dr. Miller and Mr. Bogart were appointed a committee to look out for a more convenient place for the sessions of the Assembly.

The Presbyteries, agreeably to a standing rule, were called upon to report what they had respectively done in looking out for poor and pious young men, who may promise usefulness in the gospel ministry, and providing a fund for their support and education; and a vote being taken on the reports of Presbyteries severally, Messrs. Finley and George S. Woodhull were appointed a committee to draught a minute, stating the result of the votes taken, relative to each Presbytery, agreeably to the regulations of the Assembly on the subject.

The following persons were chosen and appointed to serve as a standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia and its vicinity, the Rev. Drs. Blair, Green, Alexander, and Wilson; the Rev. Messrs. Janeway and Potts; Messrs. Boudinot, Hazard, Connelly, Haslett, and Robert Smith:

Of the Synod of Albany, the Rev. Jonas Coe:

Of the Synod of New Jersey, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Clark:

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, the Rev. Robert Cathcart:

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, the Rev. James Hughes:

Of the Synod of Virginia, the Rev. John H. Rice:

Of the Synod of Kentucky, the Rev. James Blythe:

Of the Synod of the Carolinas, the Rev. Dr. James Hall.

*Resolved*, That the election of Trustees be the order of the day for next Tuesday morning.

*Resolved*, That the overture referred to this Assembly by the last Assembly, on the subject of ordaining ministers *sine titulo*, be referred to Drs. Miller and Green, Messrs. Nathaniel Grier, Anderson, and Campbell, as a committee to consider and present to the Assembly the draught of an order which it may appear to them that the Assembly should adopt on the subject, with the principles derived from our constitution, on which such decision should be grounded.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Irwin, the delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the Convention of Vermont, stated that he was prevented from attending by indisposition in his family.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly consider Mr. Irwin's reason satisfactory.

Information was also received that Mr. Hopkins, the alternate, did not attend.

The committee appointed to look out for a more convenient place for the sessions of the Assembly, reported, that after much inquiry and consideration on this subject, they recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That this Assembly, at the close of this afternoon's session, will adjourn to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in this city.

This report was adopted by the Assembly.

The committee appointed to make a minute, stating the result of the votes of the forenoon, relative to the attention which the several Presbyteries had paid to the selection and education of poor and pious young men for the gospel ministry, and to the provision of funds for their support, reported; and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That the Presbyteries of Columbia, Albany, Hudson, New York, Jersey, Long Island, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Huntingdon, Redstone, Erie, Lancaster, Ohio, Winchester, West Lexington, Orange, Abingdon, and Harmony, had attended to the recommendations of the Assembly, and had done their duty in this respect.

That the Presbyteries of Geneva, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, New Castle, Hartford, Lexington, Washington, Concord, had not complied with the recommendations of the Assembly; but assigned such reasons as were satisfactory, and their conduct was therefore excused.

That the Presbytery of Carlisle be considered as not having complied with the recommendations of the Assembly."

The report of the committee appointed by the last Assembly to digest and prepare a plan of a Theological Seminary, was read; and the consideration of it was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

Mr. Irwin resigned his seat to the Rev. George C. Potts, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Potts took his seat as a member.

The agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the establishment of a Theological School, being called upon to report the result of their attention to the business, those who were present reported, and reports were received from a number who were not present; and Dr. Alexander, Messrs. Carnahan and Couser were appointed a committee to digest and arrange the information received from the agents, and recommend the appointment of those agents for the ensuing year, which they may think proper, and report to the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Assembly be presented to the persons who had kindly offered a room in the court house for their accommodation; and also that the thanks of the Assembly be presented to the persons who had taken so much pains, and had incurred so much expense in preparing a room adjoining the Second Presbyterian Church, for the accommodation of the Assembly: and that Dr. Green and Mr. Connelly be a committee to present their thanks as aforesaid.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 18*th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

Mr. James Knox, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of Huntingdon, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the order for this morning be postponed and made the order of the day for next Tuesday morning.

A letter from the Rev. James W. Stephenson was received and read; and together with the appeal and letter from the Rev. Thomas B. Craighead, which had been read yesterday, was referred to Dr. Romeyn, Messrs. Carnahan, and Finley, as a committee, which was directed to report to the Assembly the substance of these several papers.

*Resolved*, That this committee have access also to the records of the Synod of Kentucky, and such other papers as can be procured, and may be of use to them on the subject.

The committee appointed to report on the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, read their report. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the subject be recommitted to the same committee, that they may report more fully to the Assembly.

An extract from the minutes of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, relative to correspondence with foreign churches, being overtured, was read, and referred to Drs. Smith, and Lyman, Messrs. Walter, King, Fowler, Eli Smith, and Davidson, as a committee to report what is necessary to be adopted by the Assembly on the subject of the extract.

An extract from the minutes of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, stating the appointment of a committee of their board, to confer with a committee of this Assembly, on the establishment of a Theological School, being received, was read, and Drs. Alexander, and Nott, the Rev. John P. Campbell, Messrs. Connelly, and Bethune, were appointed a committee to confer with the committee of the Trustees.

The Committee of arrangements for the concert of prayer, reported, and their report being read, was adopted.

A petition from the Presbytery of South Carolina, requesting a reconsideration of a decision of last Assembly, relative to the appeal of Rev. William C. Davis, being overtured, was read, and committed to the Rev. Messrs. Davenport, Paisley, and Black, who were directed to report to the Assembly on the subject of said petition.

A letter from the joint sessions of Bethel and Indiantown, stating the case of a man's marrying his deceased wife's sister, being overtured, was read.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Smith, Messrs. Walter, King, and Campbell, be a committee to prepare a copy of a letter to the aforesaid sessions, to be submitted to the Assembly for their decision, communicating advice relative to the justice or prudence of their conduct in the case submitted by them to this Assembly.

A number of printed extracts from the minutes of the Associations of Connecticut, and of New Hampshire, were presented to the Assembly by the delegates from those Associations.

*Resolved*, As a standing order, that the representatives from the General Assembly to the several supreme judicatures, or associations of churches with which the Assembly hold intercourse, shall annually carry forward to such judicatures or associations, a competent number of the printed extracts from the minutes of the Assembly, of the latest date that may have been printed before the sittings of the judicatures aforesaid.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and Dr. Alexander, were appointed a committee to make extracts from the minutes of this Assembly to be printed.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia, reported, that the book had not come to hand, and that there was no prospect of its arrival before the dissolution of the Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The Rev. Matthew G. Wallace, of the Presbytery of Miami; Mr. Samuel Bayard, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of New Brunswick; and Mr. George Plumber, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of Redstone, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, and the book was approved to page 418 inclusive.

The Assembly, agreeably to the order of the day, proceeded to a free conversation on the state of religion; and Dr. Romeyn, Messrs. John Smith, Campbell, Worcester, and Porter, were appointed a committee to digest and form the information, which may be received on the subject, into a connected narrative, and lay it before the Assembly.

The members being called in the order of the roll, entered freely and fully upon the subject.

It being stated to the Assembly that the Committee of Missions would be prepared to report to-morrow morning at ten o'clock; On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Committee's report be heard at that time.

After considerable progress made in the conversation on the state of religion, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The conversation on the state of religion was resumed.

The Rev. John Glendy and Mr. William Vance had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

After considerable progress made in the conversation on the state of religion, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

A letter from the Presbytery of Charleston, containing a request on behalf of that Presbytery to be united with the General Assembly, was read, and committed to Messrs. Campbell, Hosack, Finley, Couser, and Woodruff, who were directed to report to the Assembly on the subject of this letter.

A letter addressed to the Moderator was received from Dr. Rush and read, stating the donation to the Assembly from him of 1000 copies of a pamphlet, entitled, "An inquiry into the effects of ardent spirits upon the human body and mind," to be divided among the members of the Assembly in order to be distributed in their congregations. The Assembly accepted the donation, and

*Resolved*, That their thanks be presented to Dr. Rush for the presentation of those pamphlets.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller for the missionary sermon, which, by the appointment of the committee, he had preached the preceding evening.

The conversation on the state of religion was again resumed and concluded. Accounts were received on the subject from all the Presbyteries represented in the Assembly, and also from the delegates from the General Associations of Connecticut, of New Hampshire, and of Massachusetts proper, and from the delegate from the General Convention of Vermont. Some information was also received on the subject from districts not represented in this Assembly.

Agreeably to the resolution of yesterday, the Committee of Missions being present, made their first report, and it was committed to Dr. Miller and Mr. Bogart, who were directed to select and report those articles to the Assembly which may require their attention.

The following resolution was submitted to the Assembly, and being read, was adopted:

Whereas, it has been the practice of the General Assembly, for a number of years past, (a practice from which much information highly interesting, useful, and animating, has been derived,) to make inquiries of all the representatives of the Presbyteries, as well as from those of the sister churches with which the Assembly is connected, relative to the state of religion within the regions from which the representatives severally come; and whereas it is desirable that the information so collected should be complete, concise, and accurate, and that the time of the Assembly may not be unnecessarily consumed in receiving it; therefore,

*Resolved*, As a standing order, that a written statement shall annually be required from the representatives of each Presbytery or Association in the General Assembly, which written statement shall first be read by one of such representatives; after which, each of the other representatives shall be permitted to add verbally all the information not contained in the written statement, which he may judge worthy of the attention of the Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky, reported, and the book was approved to page 196 inclusive. This book contains a reference from said Synod to this Assembly, of a case relative to the disciplining of baptized persons arrived at maturity, not in communion. This reference was committed to Dr. Clark, Messrs. Nathan Grier and Picton, who were directed to report to the Assembly on the subject.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas, reported, and the book was approved to page 28 of the twenty-third sessions of said Synod, with the exception of the resolution to make a minister liable to suspension without trial, for three years' absence from Synod, without sending forward his reason for absence.

The committee appointed to report on the petition of the Presbytery of South Carolina, relative to a reconsideration of a decision of last Assembly, reported, and recommend the reconsideration. Their report was rejected, and the committee was discharged. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That though the General Assembly regret the dissatisfaction of the Presbytery of South Carolina, in the case of Mr. Davis, yet they cannot see it to be expedient or proper to reconsider the judgment of the General Assembly of last year on the case in question.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk forward a copy of this minute to the Presbytery of South Carolina.

The Assembly proceeded to elect two Trustees, one in the place of Dr. Tennent, deceased, and the other to fill the place of Dr. Woodhull, who had resigned his seat. The ballot being taken, Dr. Archibald Alexander was declared elected in the place of the former, and the Rev. George S. Woodhull in the place of the latter. On motion,

*Resolved*, That no farther election for Trustees be held this year.

The other order for the day was postponed till to-morrow.

The committee appointed to bring in a report on the reports of the agents, reported, and their report was ordered to be laid on the table.

The committee appointed to consider the overture from the Synod of New York and New Jersey, relative to correspondence with foreign churches, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That they conceive the objects of the overture from the Synod to be of high importance. A great crisis in the state of the world, and the prospects of the Christian Church, seems at present to exist, or to be fast approaching. It is surely desirable to every lover of religion, and the Saviour, to extend his intercourse and acquaintance as far as possible, with every portion of the Redeemer's kingdom, and thus to draw the cords of mutual love more closely together, and more effectually to combine the common efforts of all the disciples of our blessed Lord to promote the extension of his grace and glory in the world. Your committee, however, learning with pleasure that the Standing Committee of Missions already embrace in the objects of their appointment, and are actually and diligently turning their attention to a great part of those contemplated in the overture of the Synod, beg leave to recommend it to the Assembly to request of that body, who have hitherto been so active and faithful, to extend their care, which they hope may be done without subjecting them to an oppressive additional labour, to all the other subjects contained in the overture. Your committee believe that it will correspond with the views of the Synod, and of the Assembly, if the Committee of Missions will institute, in the name of this Assembly, a correspondence in such manner as they may find to be best adapted for obtaining a clear and satisfactory knowledge of the actual state of the Christian Church in the various countries of the east, north, and west, whether in the communion of the Greeks, Roman Catholics, or Protestants, with respect to doctrines, worship, present spirit, and immediate prospects either secular or spiritual, in the respective nations. In this correspondence your committee recommend that a free and particular communication be made of the state of the churches in the United States of America, and that such proposition be mutually made and received as to them, and the organs of the foreign churches with whom they correspond, may severally be deemed most useful for exciting, promoting, and directing a universal zeal for purifying the doctrines of the Church, and extending to all nations the light of the gospel, and collecting all nations, when it shall please the wisdom of divine Providence, into the bosom of the kingdom of the Redeemer. All which correspondence it is recommended may be submitted annually, or as often as convenient, to the General Assembly."

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be authorized to employ a person or persons to make any transcriptions or translations which may be requisite, in carrying on the aforesaid correspondence, and that the expense be defrayed out of the funds of the Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh reported, and the book was approved to page 76, inclusive.

The following question, referred by the Synod of the Carolinas, to the decision of the Assembly, was overtured, and read:

"Are lotteries, even for religious purposes, such as building churches, &c. consistent with the morality of the gospel?" Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That as an answer to this question at present would not be attended with edification, the Assembly decline giving a decision upon it.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly send annually two delegates to the General Association of Massachusetts proper.

*Resolved*, That two of the delegates chosen to attend the General Association of Connecticut, be chosen also to attend the Association of Massachusetts proper; and that one of the delegates chosen to attend the Association of New Hampshire, be chosen also to attend the Convention of Vermont.

Agreeably to a standing rule, nominations were made for delegates to attend the aforesaid Associations and Convention, and a resolution passed that the election for these delegates be held to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Samuel Cochran, a ruling elder, from the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the election was held for three delegates from this Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet at Farmington, the third Tuesday in June next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. William Latta, the Rev. William Neill, and the Rev. Gardiner Spring, were declared duly elected to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut.

It being also the order of the day for this morning, an election was held for two delegates from this Assembly to the General Association of Massachusetts proper, to meet at Salem the fourth Wednesday in June next; and the Rev. William Latta, and the Rev. William Neill, were declared duly elected to attend said Association; and the Rev. Gardiner Spring was chosen alternate to whichever of the delegates may fail to attend, if either should fail.

It being also the order of the day for this morning, an election was held for two delegates from this Assembly to the General Association of New Hampshire, to meet at Dunbarton, the third Tuesday in September next.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. Thomas Picton, and the Rev. Samuel Fisher, were declared duly elected to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire.

It being also the order for this morning, an election was held for a delegate from this Assembly to the General Convention of Vermont, to meet at Vergennes, the second Tuesday in September next; and the Rev. Thomas Picton was declared duly elected to attend said Convention; and the Rev. Daniel C. Hopkins was chosen his alternate.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish those delegates with attested copies of the foregoing minutes, which shall serve as their commissions.

*Resolved*, That the delegates be allowed the compensation fixed by a former Assembly.

The following committees were appointed to make out supplies for the pulpits of the forementioned delegates during their necessary absence from their churches.

The Rev. Messrs. Richards and Olden were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpits of Messrs. Picton and Fisher; the Rev. Messrs. Hosack and Monteith to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Neill; the Rev. Drs. Green and Alexander to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. William Latta; the Rev. Drs. Miller and Romeyn to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Spring; and the Rev. Messrs. Cummins and Grier to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Hopkins.

The order of the day, viz: the consideration of a plan of a Theological Seminary, submitted by a committee appointed by the last Assembly, was called up, and the discussion of it was postponed to hear the report of the committee appointed to confer with a committee of the Trustees of New Jersey College.

This committee reported among other things, that they deem it expedient on the part of this Assembly, to appoint a committee with ample powers to meet a committee on the part of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, invested with similar powers to frame the plan of a constitution for the Theological Seminary, containing the fundamental principles of a union with the Trustees of that College, and the Seminary already established by them, which shall never be changed or altered without the mutual consent of both parties, provided that it should be deemed proper to locate the Assembly's Seminary at the same place with that of the College.

*Resolved*, That a committee for these purposes be appointed accordingly; and that said committee be further instructed, and invested with powers to receive any propositions which may be made to them for locating the said seminary in any other situation if it be found expedient; all which shall be fairly and fully reported to the next Assembly.

This report was adopted, and a resolution passed to elect said committee in the afternoon.

The subject of locating the Theological Seminary being discussed, it was determined by a vote of the Assembly that the rivers Raritan and Potomac be the limits, within which the seminary shall be located.

The committee appointed to form a connected narrative of the information received on the state of religion, brought in their report, which being read, was recommitted to Drs. Green, Miller, and Romeyn, who were directed to make such corrections as they may think proper, and report to the Assembly.

Mr. John Mann resigned his seat to Mr. Samuel Mann, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Samuel Mann took his seat as a member.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Agreeably to the resolution of the forenoon, an election was held for a committee to meet with a committee of the Trustees of New Jersey College, and the ballot being taken, Drs. Alexander, Wilson, and Milledoler, the Rev. Messrs. John McDowell, and Janeway, and Messrs. Robert Ralston, and Divie Bethune, were declared duly elected to compose said committee of the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Alexander be the chairman of this committee, and that he have power to appoint the time and place of the first meeting of the committee, and that he give notice accordingly to the members.

The Rev. Nathan Grier resigned his seat to the Rev. John E. Latta, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Latta being present took his seat as a member.

The order of the day was again called up; and after some progress made in reading the report of the committee appointed by last Assembly, to draw up a plan of a Theological School, the farther reading and consideration of said report was postponed till to-morrow morning.

Mr. Morrow resigned his seat to Mr. William Brown, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Brown took his seat as a member.

The connected narrative of the state of religion was again read, and being in part corrected and amended was recommitted to the same committee.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual accounts, as settled by a committee of the Trustees of the Assembly, which was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

*Resolved*, That a general order be issued for the payment of the Stated and Permanent Clerks, according to the rates fixed by a former Assembly, and their bills for stationery.

*Resolved*, That the Permanent Clerk furnish the Trustees with a certified copy of the appointment of the several delegates to the different Associations with which the Assembly is connected.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue a warrant for the payment, in advance, of one hundred dollars to Miss Jane Aitken, to purchase paper for the extracts to be printed, and to pay for printing them.

Mr. William Latta had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Agreeably to a resolution passed on Thursday last, the concert of prayer was attended last evening, and the audience was numerous, solemn, and attentive.

Mr. Cutler obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Messrs. Finley, Asa and James Dunham, had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Mr. Charles Clark, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Jersey, whose name was in the general commission from that Presbytery, appeared in the Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

The order for the day was again called up; and after making considerable progress in reading the report by paragraphs, and making a number of amendments and alterations in it, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The order for the day was again resumed, and the reading of the report of the committee appointed by last Assembly to draw up a plan for a Theological School, was finished, except articles 7th and 9th, which were referred to the consideration of next Assembly. The report being thus far corrected and amended, was adopted.

*Resolved,* That the committee which reported the plan for a Theological School, be continued; that they print for circulation in the churches, so much of the plan as has been adopted by the Assembly; and that they digest and prepare such farther provisions and regulations for said seminary as they may judge to be necessary, and report the same to the next Assembly.

The committee to which the first report of the Committee of Missions had been referred, reported; and the report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

1. *Resolved,* That the appointment of additional missionaries by the Committee of Missions, as exhibited in their report to the Assembly, be approved.

2. That the manner of settling the account with Mr. Samuel Porter, as recommended to the Assembly by the Committee of Missions, be approved.

3. That the recommendation of the Committee of Missions to allow Mr. Chapman his salary for the whole time for which he had been appointed, be, for the reasons assigned by the Committee, approved.

4. That the trustees of the Assembly, issue warrants for the payment of the following sums, as hereafter specified:

To Rev. Abiel Jones, $91.22. Rev. Enoch Whipple, 192.99. Rev. John Lindsley, 59.58. Rev. Jedediah Chapman, 66.67. Rev. Samuel Tait, 6.76. Rev. James H. Dickey, 53.15½. Rev. Alexander Cook, 126.77. Rev. Thomas Cleland, 30.44. Rev. Stuart Williamson, 83.28. Rev. Gideon Blackburn, 66.67. Rev. John H. Rice, 66.67. Rev. Nash Legrand, 70.00. Rev. Joseph Logan, 96.00. Rev. Jeremiah Abel, 64.16. Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, 16.66½. Rev. Benjamin H. Rice, 74.50. Rev. Robert Stuart, 43.32. Rev. John Campbell, 27.49. Rev. John Clark, 28.86. Rev. Francis Pomeroy, 41.10. Total, $1306.30.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly approve the fidelity and diligence of the Committee of Missions in executing the trust confided to them.

The committee appointed to write an answer to the Rev. James W. Stevenson's letter, addressed to the Assembly, brought in their report, which being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"*Rev. and Dear Sir*—The General Assembly have attended to the contents of your letter with peculiar interest. They need hardly observe that the situation of the church in your quarter has excited their sympathy for a long time back. They fondly hope that the time is not far distant, when the evils you have experienced will be completely remedied. Hitherto the Lord hath helped you, and your duty is to persevere, maintaining faith and a good conscience. We cheerfully admit the apology you offer for the absence of a commissioner, and the want of a report. With sentiments such as you profess, if cherished, your temporary difficulties will soon be overcome. The diversified character of the people with whom you are connected in social intercourse, is one of those circumstances which, as they are unavoidable, so they will call for the exercise of forbearance, patience, firmness, and watchfulness. Look to a covenant God in faith for his direction, and with filial confidence leave the issue with him. Adhere sacredly to your own adopted standard, whilst you extend the hand of fellowship to others, who, you have reason to hope, love our Lord Jesus Christ. In this way alone do we conceive peace can be cultivated, and union in the end established between differing Christians. To relinquish principles for the sake of peace, is too dear a sacrifice; and every overture made to us from any quarter to produce a union at such an expense, we unhesitatingly reject. The men of whom you speak, went out from us because they were not of us. The objection they make to our Confession of Faith, as if it taught the doctrine of fatality, we fear is not so much the result of a defect of understanding, as of a disposition to misrepresent. For who could dream that the doctrine of fatality was taught in an instrument, in which it is declared expressly, that the liberty of second causes is not impaired? We do not object to your appointment of a committee to confer with these men, but we wish you to be careful not to yield any principle either in doctrine or government. You will readily perceive the propriety of this advice, when you recollect that our standards constitute our bond of union. Neither individuals nor judicatories can alter them, for the whole Church is interested. If you modify any part of our standards to suit these men, you are bound by the precedent to modify another part for another set of men, if they should make objections. Take your stand, therefore, on the ground of the Confession of Faith and the Book of Discipline. Keep that ground. If these men wish to join our Church, they know the terms. Their wish to alter these terms, is not very modest; for it is requesting the majority to yield to the minority. As we force no one to adopt our standards, there is no oppression exercised over any by our adherence to our own principles. The contrary practice, in fact, is the intolerance of a few over the many, and must produce ruinous effects. The history of your part of our Church is a warning. Whilst we thus exhort you to receive none upon any modification of our standards, we recommend to you a conciliatory, mild, and forbearing conduct to those who are out of our communion.

We are your affectionate brethren in the Lord.

Signed by order of the General Assembly,

MODERATOR."

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

A letter was received from Mr. Samuel Bayard, stating that for some time past he had been engaged in translating a system of theological instruction designed as a catechism for youth, which being now nearly ready for publication, he offers to submit to the revision and control of this Assembly for the use of the churches under their care. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the said work be referred for examination to a committee consisting of Drs. Samuel S. Smith, Samuel Miller, and John B. Romeyn, who are hereby authorized to inspect the same carefully, and if they find nothing therein contrary to the doctrines of our church, and that it promises to be useful as a summary of the principles of the Christian religion, they are at liberty to certify the same.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Drs. Miller, Milledoler, and Romeyn, Rev. Messrs. James Richards, McNeice, Ezra Stiles Ely, and Gardiner Spring, Dr. John R. B. Rodgers, Col. Henry Rutgers, and Mr. Divie Bethune, be a committee to endeavour to devise measures, which when sanctioned by the General Assembly, may have an influence in preventing some of the numerous and threatening mischiefs which are experienced throughout our country by the excessive and intemperate use of spirituous liquors, and that this committee be authorized to correspond and act in concert with any persons who may be appointed, or associate for a similar purpose, and that the committee hereby appointed report to the next General Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, brought in their report, which being read, was adopted and is as follows, viz:

" That they have examined said reports, and have found that reports have been received from each Synod within the bounds of the General Assembly; that reports have been received from each Presbytery in the Synods of Albany, New York and New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and the Carolinas: that only two Presbyterial reports have been received from the bounds of the Synod of Virginia, and one from the Synod of Kentucky; that the Synodical report from the Synod of Kentucky is neither dated nor signed, and that many of the Presbyterial reports, especially some of those from the bounds of the Synod of the Carolinas, are informal and defective. The committee would recommend that only the several headings of said reports, together with the sum total of collections and communicants be read to the Assembly; and that the Presbyterial, rather than the Synodical reports be read, in all cases wherein the former have been received."

The committee appointed to consider and present to the Assembly the draught of an order which it may appear to them that the Assembly should adopt on the subject of ordination, *sine titulo*, reported, and their report being read, was considered at some length, and the farther consideration of it was postponed to take up the following substitute, which being discussed, was adopted.

" Whereas, There may exist cases, in which it may be needful for Presbyteries to ordain without a regular call; but as the frequent exercise of this power may be dangerous to the Church; and as this case does not appear to be fully provided for in our constitution and book of discipline, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the following rule be submitted to the Presbyteries for their opinion and approbation, which when sanctioned by a majority of the Presbyteries belonging to this Church, shall become a constitutional rule; viz:

That it shall be the duty of Presbyteries, when they think it necessary to ordain a candidate without a call to a particular congregation, or congregations, to take the advice of their respective Synods, or of the General Assembly, before they proceed to this ordination."

The Committee to which the petition from the Presbytery of Charleston, praying to be taken into connection with the General Assembly, had been referred, reported, and the report being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petition be granted, and that said Presbytery retaining their name, and their character of incorporation be, and they hereby are taken into connection with the General Assembly; provided however, that the members of said Presbytery shall have adopted the Confession of Faith, and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and shall also effect a compromise or union with the Presbytery of Harmony, which transactions shall be subject to the review and control of the Synod of the Carolinas."

The committee appointed to write a letter relative to the case of a man's marrying his deceased wife's sister, reported the draught of a letter which was read, and the business was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Dr. Lyman, and Mr. Carnahan.

The committee to which the reference from the Synod of Kentucky, relative to the conduct to be pursued by the Church with respect to baptized persons not in communion had been committed, brought in their report, which was read, and the subject was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Henry Sherman presented a number of copies of a book entitled, Dr. Haweis' Communicants' Companion, and requested the recommendation of this Assembly to the work.

It being moved and seconded that the Assembly recommend this book, On motion,

*Resolved*, That as the precedent of recommending books would involve the Assembly in much trouble, by numerous similar applications, the motion for recommending be postponed, and that the thanks of the Assembly be presented to Mr. Sherman for the donation.

Mr. Woodruff had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Mr. Slemons resigned his seat to the Rev. Stuart Williamson, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Williamson took his seat as a member.

The Committee of Missions made their second report, which, being read, was committed to the same committee to which their first report had been committed.

A letter from Mr. Francis Hindman, requesting a reconsideration of the decision of the last Assembly, affirming the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, relative to his deposition by the Presbytery of New Castle, was read.

It was moved and seconded, that the reasons given are not sufficient to justify a reconsideration of the decision of last Assembly.

Before the question on this motion was taken, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Messrs. William Kennedy, Nathaniel R. Snowden, and Samuel Barr, obtained leave of absence after this afternoon, during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Mr. George S. Woodhull resigned his seat to the Rev. Joseph Rice, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Rice took his seat as a member.

The committee to which the second report of the Committee of Missions had been referred, reported, and the report being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

"*Resolved*, That this Assembly make the following missionary appointments :

1. That Mr. Matthew Harrison be appointed a missionary for three months; to commence his route on the head waters of Lake Champlain and Scroon, and thence to continue his course down the west side of Lake Champlain, till he reach the north boundary of the county of Essex.

2. That the Rev. Enoch Whipple be appointed a missionary for three months; to commence his labours in the southern settlements of the county of Clinton, and thence to pursue his route north and west, until he reach the river St. Lawrence.

That in case of failure of either or of both of these persons to fulfil the appointment, the Presbytery of Columbia be authorized to provide a missionary or missionaries, for the regions specified.

3. That the Rev. John Lindsley be employed as a missionary for two months, in the counties of Tioga, Ontario, and Steuben, in New York; and that he be left at discretion as to the time of fulfilling his mission.

4. That the Rev. Jedediah Chapman be appointed a missionary for three months, in the Genesee country, at discretion.

5. That the Rev. Oliver Ayer be appointed a missionary for two months, on such missionary ground as the Presbytery of Geneva may designate.

6. That the Rev. Francis Pomeroy be employed as a missionary for two months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Geneva.

7. That the Rev. Joshua Johnson be appointed a missionary for two months, commencing his mission in the county of Onondaga, and thence proceeding to the Holland purchase, where he is to spend the greater part of his time.

8. That the Rev. John Davenport be employed as a missionary for two months in the counties of Onondaga and Courtlandt, and parts adjacent.

9. That the Presbytery of Cayuga be authorized to employ a missionary for two months, on missionary ground within their bounds.

10. That Mr. Ezekiel Glasgow be appointed a missionary for three months, and that he be directed to commence his route a few miles above Easton, and visit the destitute settlements on both sides of the Delaware; to pursue his course till he reach the New York line, and thence to advance till he arrive at a congregation at Sparta and Danville, where he may spend as much time as the congregation will allow him compensation for.

11. That the Presbytery of Albany be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, in the counties of Washington, Saratoga, and Montgomery, particularly in the towns of Hadley, Edinburgh, and Northampton.

12. That the Rev. John Clark be appointed a missionary for one month, in Dutchess county, state of New York.

13. That the Presbytery of Hudson be authorized to direct a mission for three months, on missionary ground within their bounds; and that they be permitted to divide the time between the missionaries, as they may judge most conducive to the interest of the mission.

14. That the Presbytery of New York be empowered to employ a missionary to itinerate three months at discretion, in the county of West Chester, in the state of New York.

15. That the Presbytery of New Brunswick be authorized to employ a

missionary or missionaries for three months, on missionary ground within their limits.

16. That the Rev. John Gloucester be appointed a missionary for three months, to the blacks in Philadelphia.

17. That Mr. George W. Janvier be appointed a missionary for two months, in the country adjacent to Philadelphia, as the Committee of Missions may direct.

18. That the Committee of Missions be authorized to employ a missionary or missionaries for three months, in that region which lies between Woodbury and Cape May, New Jersey.

19. That the Presbytery of Huntingdon be authorized to employ a missionary for two months, on missionary ground within their bounds.

20. That the Rev. Alexander Cook be appointed a missionary for three months, within the limits of the Presbyteries of Hartford and Lancaster.

21. That the Rev. Samuel Tait be employed as a missionary for two months, between the Allegheny river and Lake Erie; and

22. That the Rev. William Woods be appointed a missionary for two months, on the same route.

23. That the Rev. Thomas Moore be appointed a missionary for three months, on missionary ground within the limits of the Presbyteries of Redstone and Erie.

24. That the Presbytery of Northumberland be authorized to employ a missionary or missionaries for three months, within their bounds.

25. That the Rev. James Hughes be appointed a missionary for six weeks, within the bounds of the Synod of Pittsburgh, at discretion.

26. That the Rev. John Breckenridge be appointed a missionary for three months, in the city of Washington and in Bladensburgh.

27. That the Presbytery of Washington be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, within their bounds.

28. That the Rev. James Cunningham be appointed a missionary for three months, between Wheeling and the mouth of the Scioto, on both sides of the Ohio.

29. That the Rev. Joseph Stephenson be employed as a missionary for two months, on the head waters of Muskingum, Scioto, and Miami rivers.

30. That the Rev. Stephen Bovelle be appointed a missionary for three months, in the western parts of the state of Ohio, and in the Indiana Territory.

31. That the Rev. Matthew G. Wallace be appointed a missionary for one month, on missionary ground within the limits of the Presbytery of Miami.

32. That the Rev. James McGready be employed as a missionary for three months, in the Indiana Territory.

33. That the Rev. Thomas Cleland be employed as a missionary for two months, in the counties of Harden, Grason, Green, Adair, Cumberland, Casey, Pulaské, and Wayne, Kentucky.

34. That the Rev. Samuel B. Robertson be employed as a missionary for two months, on the south of Green river, in the destitute parts of the Muhlenburgh Presbytery.

35. That the Presbytery of West Lexington be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, in the counties of Gallatin, Boone, Pendleton, Harrison, Nicholas, and Bath.

36. That the Rev. John P. Campbell be appointed a missionary for two months, within the bounds of the late Cumberland Presbytery, at discretion.

37. That the Rev. James Kemper be appointed a missionary for four months, on the northern neck, in Virginia, to commence his mission as soon as he shall have arrived in the state of Virginia.

38. That the Rev. John H. Rice be appointed a missionary for three months, to the blacks in Charlotte county, Virginia, and parts adjacent.

39. That Mr. Benjamin H. Rice, and

40. Mr. Charles Kennon, be appointed missionaries for three months, each, in the eastern parts of Virginia and North Carolina.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be authorized to employ as many more missionaries as the funds will bear; and particularly that they be authorized to send a missionary to the Cherokee nation; and if necessary, to appropriate to that mission as much money as has hitherto been annually appropriated.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be authorized and directed to pay, when the circumstances of the fund will admit, four hundred dollars, to the Board of Trust of the Synod of Pittsburgh, for the support of the Indian mission under their care; and if it shall appear consistent with the state of the funds, after provision shall have been made to satisfy generally, the other appropriations for missionary services, the Trustees be authorized and directed to pay on the recommendation of the Committee of Missions, one hundred dollars more, toward the promoting of the important design above mentioned.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly recommend to the Presbyteries to send out their members, either by pairs or individually, to act as missionaries in the country contiguous to their residence, for one or two weeks in the course of a year; and that they be allowed, as their compensation, what they may collect in their mission, provided the sum so collected do not exceed the rate of $33.33 per month.

*Resolved*, That it would tend to promote the interest of missions, if the missionaries were to receive religious books and tracts for distribution among the people to whom they are sent, and that in order to accomplish this object the more easily,

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries be directed to point out places of deposit, with the best method of conveying such books and tracts.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries, within whose bounds the several missionaries reside, take such order as they may think proper for the supply of the pulpits of the missionaries during the time of their respective missions."

Dr. Alexander, and Mr. Janeway, were appointed a committee to distribute gratis as many as they may think proper of the pamphlets entitled Missionary Intelligence, printed agreeably to the direction of last Assembly.

The Committee on the Commissioners' Fund brought in the following report, which was adopted, viz:

That the following is a statement of the Presbyteries which have this year paid into the Commissioners' Fund, together with the sums paid by each, viz:

By Presbytery of Onondaga, $35.00. Geneva, 28.81. Cayuga, 21.15. Oneida, 54.61. Albany, 66.66. Columbia, 58.00. Hudson, 89.15. New York, 275.25. Jersey, 107.10. New Brunswick, 66.67. Philadelphia, 147.95. New Castle, 19.21. Carlisle, 100.00. Huntingdon, 34.00. Lewes, 27.02. Redstone, 97.63. Ohio, 66.19. Erie, 25.80. Harmony, 45.00. Abingdon, 12.00. Hartford, 29.12. Orange, 45.00. Concord, 30.00. Lancaster, 25.87. Miami, 50.00. Washington, 53.28. Baltimore, 25.00. Londonderry, 54.05. Total, $1689.52.

*Resolved*, That the following sums be paid to the Commissioners, as hereafter specified, viz:

To Rev. Joseph Merrill, $50.85. Rev. O. Ayer, 52.31. Elder Henry Axtell, 49.72. Rev. H. N. Woodruff, 49.72. Rev. J. Davenport, 45.20. Elder David Olmstead, 45.20. Rev. J. Carnahan, 38.42. Rev. Andrew

Oliver, 33.90. Rev. Robert H. Chapman, 32.77. Elder Abraham Vantuyl, 32.77. Rev. Simon Hosack, 32.77. Rev. Dr. Nott, 29.71. Rev. John Clark, 19.21. Rev. J. Grier, 13.56. Rev. C. Cumming, 14.69. Rev. J. Johnson, 16.95. Elder E. Jackson, 14.69. Rev. Dr. Miller, 9.71. Rev. Dr. Romeyn, 9.71. Rev. T. Picton, 7.91. Rev. S. Fisher, 9.60. Rev. B. King, 10.62. Rev. E. Riggs, 8.70. Elder B. Cory, 8.02. Elder J. Cutler, 9.60. Elder D. Magie, 8.02. Rev. Dr. Smith, 4.52. Rev. Dr. Woodhull, 6.78. Rev. Dr. Clark, 6.21. Rev. R. Finley, 8.13. Rev. G. S. Woodhull, 5.08. Elder J. Skillman, 4.97. Elder J. Dunham, 6.32. Elder Moses Scott, 6.21. Elder Samuel Barr, 3.61. Rev. Robert Cathcart, 10.17. Rev. Robert Kennedy, 18.08. Rev. J. Buchanan, 11.30. Rev. J. B. Slemons, 18.08. Elder J. Knox, 16.72. Rev. William Kennedy, 18.08. Rev. A. Dunham, 14.69. Rev. G. Hill, 30.51. Rev. J. Hunt, 33.90. Rev. W. Swan, 32.77. Elder G. Plummer, 32.77. Rev. William Woods, 41.24. Rev. Johnston Eaton, 47.46. Elder A. Cook, 42.94. Rev. J. Anderson, 40.68. Rev. J. Patterson, 38.42. Rev. James Hoge, 56.50. Rev. J. P. Campbell, 72.46. Rev. William Paisley, 56.50. Rev. J. Kirkpatrick, 70.51. Rev. J. Black, 67.80. Rev. J. Couser, 86.93. Rev. J. Wright, 53.67. Rev. M. G. Wallace, 71.18. Total, $1689.52.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue warrants for the payment of the foregoing sums, as above specified.

The motion under discussion in the forenoon, relative to Mr. Hindman's case, being called up, was postponed, and the following substitute was adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That as only one of the parties in this case is present, this General Assembly do not consider themselves as placed in circumstances which admit of their reconsidering the decision of last Assembly on Mr. Hindman's appeal from the Synod of Philadelphia, even if the existence of new evidence were ever so unquestionable.

*Resolved*, also, That it is the well known privilege of Mr. Hindman, if he consider himself as having new evidence to offer in this case, to apply to the Presbytery for a new trial upon that new evidence.

Drs. Green and Miller, and Mr. Cathcart, were appointed a committee to consider the propriety of appointing agents for the ensuing year to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary; and if they think the appointment expedient and proper, to nominate persons to be appointed agents. It was made also the duty of this committee to take measures to render the moneys collected productive.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, made the following report, which was adopted, viz:

"That they had examined the said records to page 199, inclusive, and in general approved them as orderly and correct, excepting that the Presbyterial reports are not so fully recorded as to exhibit in detail even the changes which take place from time to time in the Presbyteries."

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and the book was approved to page 257, inclusive.

Messrs. Stuart, Brown, and Knox, had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the committee appointed to confer with a committee of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, be, and they hereby are instructed to consider the several articles of the plan of a Theological Seminary, so far as the same are adopted by this Assembly, as their guide in the proposed conference, which they shall in no case contravene.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Messrs. Buchanan and Mann had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

*Resolved,* That Drs. Miller and Romeyn, and the Rev. James Richards, be a committee to prepare and report to next Assembly a full and complete answer to the following overture from the Synod of Kentucky, which had been made to this Assembly:

"What steps should the Church take with baptized youth, not in communion, but arrived at the age of maturity, should such youth prove disorderly and contumacious?"

The committee appointed to draught a letter to the joint sessions of Bethel and Indian Town, on the case of a person marrying the sister of a deceased wife, prayed to be dismissed from further attention to this duty, and their request was granted.

Messrs. Picton and Johnston were appointed a committee to prepare the part of the Presbyterial and Synodical reports, which, agreeably to a standing rule, is to be transcribed by the Stated Clerk into the compendious view, a book prepared for that purpose.

The committee appointed to consider the propriety of appointing agents, and to take measures to make the moneys collected for the Theological Seminary productive, brought in the following resolutions, which were adopted, viz:

1. *Resolved,* That measures for obtaining contributions for the funds of the Theological Seminary, be vigorously prosecuted during the ensuing year, through the whole bounds of the General Assembly.

2. That the agents for soliciting contributions, who were appointed by the last Assembly, and who have not declined their agency, be re-appointed; and that others be added, who in the opinion of the Assembly, will probably be active in the business.

3. That it be earnestly recommended to all the Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly, to take the most effectual order to obtain subscriptions from all their congregations, both settled and vacant, for aiding the funds in contemplation; and for this purpose, that they make it the duty of every minister to take up subscriptions in his own charge, and appoint proper persons to do the same in the vacancies; and also that the several members aid, so far as may be necessary and practicable, the agents whom the General Assembly have appointed to solicit at large.

4. That the sums of money already collected, or which may hereafter be collected, for the funds of the Theological Seminary, be forwarded as soon as may be practicable, to the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Assembly, and that the said Trustees be directed to invest such money in some productive public stock.

The following is a list of the agents for the ensuing year, appointed by the Assembly to solicit donations for the establishment of the Theological Seminary, including the agents re-appointed, and also the new appointments made in addition, viz:

Of the Synod of Albany—the Rev. Messrs. Jedediah Chapman, William Morrison, James Carnahan, Jonas Coe, William Neill, John Chester, Mr. Isaac Hutton, and Col. John Linklaen.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey—Rev. Drs. Samuel Miller, Philip Milledoler, John B. Romeyn, Rev. Messrs. James Richards, David Comfort, John McNeice, Isaac VanDoren, Gardiner Spring, Messrs. John Mills, Divie Bethune.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia—Dr. Ashbel Green, Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, James Muir, D. D., Rev. Messrs. John Glendy, Archibald Alexander, John E. Latta, John B. Slemons, John B. Patterson, James Inglis, Messrs. Robert Ralston, Thomas Leiper, John McMullin, Christopher Johnson, and William McDonald.

Of the Synod of Virginia—Rev. Messrs. Drury Lacy, John D. Blair, William Williamson, Samuel Houston, Conrad Speece, John H. Rice, Samuel B. Wilson, Messrs. Hume and William Calhoun.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh—Rev. Messrs. Samuel Ralston, James Guthrie, William Spear and James Hughes.

Of the Synod of Kentucky—Rev. Robert G. Wilson, James Blythe, Archibald Cameron, and Joshua L. Wilson.

Of the Synod of the Carolinas—James Hall, D. D., Rev. Daniel Brown, Henry Kollock, D. D., Rev. Messrs. Malcolm McNair, John Couser, James W. Thompson, Moses Waddell, D. D., Rev. Messrs. William L. Turner, William McPheeters, John Brown, Andrew Flinn, John Elliott, of Medway, Dr. Buchan, Hon. William B. Chavis, Maj. Samuel Robertson, Dr. John Cumming, of Savannah, Messrs. John Bolton, of Savannah, Thomas Cumming, Charles Banks, John Brownlee, of Charleston.

Besides their appointment to solicit in general, within their respective districts, the Rev. Dr. Milledoler was appointed to solicit particularly on Long Island; and the Rev. John E. Latta in Baltimore; on the east side of the Hudson, the Rev. Jonas Coe; on the west side of the Hudson, the Rev. Henry McNeill in Albany, Schenectady, and the towns adjacent.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolutions and appointments of agents be printed with the revised plan of the Theological Seminary, and that a competent number of copies be transmitted by the Stated Clerk to the Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly, and to the agents appointed by the Assembly.

It was also recommended by the Assembly that the Presbyteries take order to supply the pulpits of the ministers, who are appointed agents, during the time of their absence from their charges in prosecuting the business of their agency.

Whereas information has been given to the Assembly that there is a deficiency in the number of the copies of their printed extracts, intended for binding, viz: for 1804, 146 copies; 1806, 6 copies; for 1807, 29 copies; and whereas the Assembly wish to take measures for preparing a second volume of the printed extracts, and presenting a copy to each Presbytery; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly will take it as a favour, if individuals having copies of the extracts for the years above mentioned, will forward them to the Stated Clerk, that the deficiency may be supplied.

The committee to which was referred the letter and appeal of the Rev. Thomas B. Craighead, reported that, after having carefully attended to the duty assigned them, they did not discover any sufficient reason why he has not come forward to prosecute his appeal before the Assembly, nor why his case should not now be brought to issue; and therefore recommend that the representation from the Synod of Kentucky be permitted, if so disposed, to enter their protest in proper time against a future prosecution of his appeal, and thus give effect to a standing order of the General Assembly, that the sentence of the Synod be considered as final.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing report be accepted, and that Mr. Craighead be furnished with an attested copy of this decision in his case.

The members of the Synod of Kentucky brought forward their protest, which being read, was accepted, and is as follows:

"The Rev. Thomas B. Craighead having appealed to the General Assem-

bly from a decision of the Synod of Kentucky, made in the month of October last, by which decision the said Synod directed the Presbytery of Transylvania to depose the said Thomas B. Craighead from the gospel ministry, which was done accordingly, and whereas the said Mr. Craighead has not prosecuted his appeal to the General Assembly, and the subscribers, members of the Synod of Kentucky, have waited till the last day of the sessions of the Assembly, to afford opportunity for the prosecution of said appeal; we do, therefore, now protest, in our own name, and on behalf of the Synod of Kentucky, against the future prosecution of said appeal, and declare the sentence of the Synod to be final, agreeably to a standing order of the General Assembly. Signed, JAMES HOGE,
M. G. WALLACE, J. P. CAMPBELL."

The committee appointed to prepare a statement from the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, brought in their report, which was accepted, and an order was passed that it be transcribed into the book prepared for that purpose, and that the summary be published in the printed extracts.

The committee to which the connected narrative of the state of religion had been committed, reported that they had attended to the duty assigned them; and their report was accepted, and the narrative is as follows, viz:

"The providences of Jehovah towards the Church demand both attention and improvement from his people. Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them.

To furnish their brethren with suitable information on this subject, the General Assembly present this narrative of the state of religion within their bounds, and those of sister churches, to their notice and regard.

The scene which a review of the past year affords to us, is not marked with such signal blessings as that of some preceding years. But still it is interesting, for we have sweet and consolatory evidences that God is in the midst of us.

The attendance upon the regular worship of God has been decent generally; in some instances, not a few, solemn and affecting.

Though there have been no general revivals in any part of our borders, a few places have been specially visited. This is the case with Cape May and Fairfield, in the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and we add with pleasure, the capital of the United States, and one or two villages adjacent. We hail the day of small things in the latter district of country, and pray that the first fruits may be followed with an abundant harvest.

In the city of New York, within the bounds of the Presbytery of New York, the cause of Christ has been gradually and steadily advancing. Constant accessions are made to the communion of the Church, as well from the higher, as the middling and lower classes of society.

Those parts of our Church where the Spirit has been remarkably poured out in past years, still display the fruits of such gracious visitations. There are few apostasies; none of great moment. Believers are walking in the comforts of the Holy Ghost, and manifesting the works of righteousness and peace in their daily deportment. In many congregations they discover great solicitude for the conversion of sinners. They are troubled in mind, and urged to fervent prayer, for the welfare of souls, and the glory of Christ. The noble spirit which the gospel produces, thus discovers itself in them; and we cannot but hope that HE who hath given them this spirit, will gratify their desires.

Many new congregations have been formed, which promise fair to be nurseries of children for our God and his Christ. We notice with satisfaction, one establishment in Philadelphia composed of people of colour. May the example be followed in other places, that thus this neglected part of the human family may have the means of grace administered to them every where, in a manner both suitable to their situation and their intellectual improvement.

The vacancies in our churches have been more generally supplied than we had a reasonable ground of expectation. The ministry are faithful in explaining and defending the truth as it is in Jesus, and in restoring decayed discipline. We have cause of thankfulness that, in a day of rebuke like this, there is so much unanimity of sentiment and of conduct, on points that are fundamental, among those who labour in holy things.

The missionary exertions of this Assembly have been owned and blessed, both on our frontiers and among the Indians.

From this general view we descend to some more minute details of circumstances which we consider favourable.

There appears an increasing attention in most places to the doctrines of the gospel. People begin to be generally convinced that it is important for them to have correct principles, in order that they may lead correct lives. Especially do they who profess the hope of the gospel, pay more of that attention to doctrines which sound philosophy and the Scriptures demand. And the doctrines which they esteem and cherish, are those which our fathers in the old world embraced; in the faith of which they died, and which are contained in our standards. They are denominated, appropriately, the doctrines of grace, and constitute both our glory and defence. By them God is honoured, and sinners are saved. They have ever been opposed, and they ever will be opposed by those who know not the truth, or who hold it in unrighteousness. But God has ever put the seal of his approbation on them, making them effectual to the conversion of sinners.

In close connection with this increased regard thus paid to doctrines, we find there is an increased exertion for the promotion of pure and undefiled religion. This will ever be the case. Among those who consider doctrines of little avail, the efforts used for advancing the interests of Christ's kingdom are few and feeble. They may, through the excitement of interest and passion, make a violent attempt, but their force is soon spent. On the contrary, they who judge doctrines to be essentially necessary, as a foundation for correct conduct, are constrained to exert themselves for the spread of those doctrines. The understanding being convinced of their importance, enlists the conscience and the affections in their favour. This is particularly and emphatically the case with those who have embraced evangelical principles. Among them we chiefly find important and permanent plans for the diffusion of truth and the glory of God. We rejoice in the increase of Missionary, Tract, and Bible Societies within our bounds, and the more so because there is so much need of missionary exertions in different parts, and also of Bibles. From various parts the request has been uttered, "Give us Bibles." The Bible Societies, no doubt, will promptly, as they receive information, grant the request. It has pleased God to excite pious women also to combine in associations for the purpose of aiding, by their voluntary contributions, one or other of the above institutions. Benevolence is always attractive, but when dressed in a female form possesses peculiar charms. Hard, indeed, must that heart be which can resist the example, or the solicitation of a mother, a wife, a sister, or a friend, when that example and solicitation are for the promotion of the public good. We hope the spirit which has animated the worthy women of whom we speak, will spread and animate other bosoms.

Besides these societies, we find that the friends of evangelical truth support by subscription in the city of New York, a stated preacher in the hospital and almshouse. The issue of such an attempt, we trust, will gladden the hearts of those who have made it, and bring glory to God in the conversion and comfort of the poor and sick.

In the city of Philadelphia, the Evangelical Society, which has existed for some time, are vigorously prosecuting their laudable plan, in disseminating the truth. Besides the regular societies which they have established, they have directed their attention to the catechizing of poor children.

In the city of New Brunswick, in New Jersey, a Sabbath-school has been established, in which a large number of poor children, are gratuitously and carefully instructed in moral and religious truth.

These institutions are pre-eminently characteristic of the religion of Jesus. He preached the gospel to the poor, and has charged his followers not to forget them. We fail in our duty, as well as abridge our personal happiness, by neglecting to visit the fatherless, to assist the indigent, to alleviate human sufferings. Property is given to us for others, as well as ourselves. Believers are stewards of the bounties of providence, as well as the grace of God.

The praying societies which have heretofore been established, still continue, and new ones have been formed. We congratulate the brethren on the prospect which this affords. Such institutions are nurseries of piety, directly calculated to keep alive in the hearts of believers the flame of divine love, and to awaken the attention of such as are afar off. We are not ashamed to acknowledge, that they constitute one of the great blessings of our Church. So far are we from apprehending danger from them, that we do know, and we declare, without fear of contradiction, that they are good in themselves, and that they promote the best interests of those who attend them.

Attention to the young and rising generation has evidently increased during the past year. Baptized children are more generally objects of special care. Catechetical instruction is administered to them in most of our congregations, and in some, measures are taking to introduce a system of discipline in regard to them, suitable to the relation they sustain to the Church, and to the duty which the Church owes to them. We trust our brethren will go on in this good work. Much remains to be done. The children which the Lord has committed to our care, ought not to be thrust into the world without defence. The mere elements of religion are not sufficient for their use. They ought to be instructed in the higher doctrines of the gospel, to be acquainted with the contents of Scripture, and furnished with the evidences which demonstrate the divinity of the Scriptures. Churches, as well as parents, have a solemn account to render to God for the manner in which the children sealed with the seal of the covenant, have been treated. They are reaping the fruits of their negligence, in the carelessness and profaneness of multitudes of their youth. These, though dedicated to God in baptism, have been suffered to wander at large with no suitable restraint exercised over them. On whom then must the blame chiefly descend? We shudder at the truth. We hope, however, that the future will exhibit a different picture. Present exertions promise such an issue. We leave the subject with God, commending it to his blessing.

In addition to these favourable circumstances, we are happy to state that infidelity appears to be declining; and that there are few errors prevalent. In a few sections, Socinianism and Universalism do exist, but gain little ground.

We have thus far given you in detail the circumstances we deem favourable. We must now unfold to you some of an opposite character.

With pain we have heard, that in some parts of our Church, the disposition to support the gospel ministry is becoming cold. We lament this appearance the more, because we learn that there is no backwardness to advance money for objects, which, though laudable in themselves, are subordinate in importance to the preaching of the word. We trust that our people possess too much good sense, and too much respect for the God who made and redeemed them, to listen to the dreams of men who neither know what they say nor whereof they affirm. These do not hesitate to libel an ordinance of the living God, to promote their selfish views, their degrading prejudices. God has said, whosoever serveth at the altar shall live of the altar. But these say, no; the ministry must be kept in want, that they may be kept humble. We fervently wish that the men who thus act towards the ministry would, to be consistent, apply their reasonings to themselves. We do not hesitate to say, that the profession of religion which is connected with a disposition to abridge the means of supporting the gospel, is, at best, suspicious. Men who do so, practically say, we love our bodies more than our souls; our temporal substance more than our eternal inheritance. It is among the foulest blots on the Christian name that, in so many instances, the confession is made of the heart being opened to receive the truth in the love of it, whilst at the same time great reluctance is displayed in giving worldly substance, for the service of Him who alone changes the heart. One of the best evidences of the power of religion, is an increase of liberality in relation to all those objects which regard the salvation of souls and the prosperity of Zion. We hope that they who have in this respect gone back, will, without delay, retrace their steps, and redeem their name from reproach or suspicion.

We are ashamed, but constrained to say, that we have heard of the sin of drunkenness prevailing—prevailing to a great degree—prevailing even amongst some of the visible members of the household of faith. What a reflection on the Christian character is this, that they who profess to be bought with a price, and thus redeemed from iniquity, should debase themselves by the gratification of appetite to a level with the beasts which perish!

Another unfavourable circumstance of which we have heard, is the prevalence of Sabbath-breaking. For this, indeed, our whole land doth mourn; for this we desire to be humbled before God. The profanation of the Sabbath is as incompatible with morality as with religion. It leads directly to consequences of the most fatal and ruinous kind. We rejoice that it is a crime with which but few professing believers are directly chargeable; but they are indirectly, by quietly suffering others to commit it, without endeavouring to prevent it, or to bring the offenders to punishment. We hope that associations for the suppression of vice and the promotion of morals, will be generally established, so as to arrest the wicked, and support faithful magistrates in enforcing the laws.

From our sister churches, the accounts we have received are similar in their general tenor, to those we have given in detail of our own Church.

In Connecticut, nothing of singular importance has occurred during the past year. But few of the churches have been favoured with times of special refreshing from the presence of the Lord. They, who have in former years been made to bow to the sceptre of mercy, seem still to walk worthy of their vocation. The ministry display the pleasing spectacle of a band of brethren, with one heart and one mind, engaged in their arduous work.

Vermont has been favoured with revivals; in many of her towns several hundreds have been added to the Church, and still the rain of righteousness is descending. May it continue to descend, till the valleys and mountains shall respond to each other the high praises of our God. Infidelity is not so audacious, nor immorality so prevalent as formerly. Ministers are continually settling in places where the messages of mercy have never before been delivered.

In the upper part of New Hampshire, there have been more revivals than usual. In Newport, not less than two hundred have been hopefully converted.

Romney, Croydon, Hebron, and Groton, have also been visited. In the lower part there has been no general revival. Faithful ministers are, however, increasing: efforts are making to introduce praying societies in many congregations. A concert of prayer among ministers, held once in two or three weeks, has been established. Appearances thus are favourable. We noted one circumstance in the accounts from this State with great interest; a school of small children awakened to a sense of their situation, and eight or ten of them made hopeful converts through the means of religious instruction.

Massachusetts, at present, exhibits a scene worthy of the sons of those pilgrims who left their country for the sake of religion, and settled in a howling waste. The line of distinction between the sound and the unsound, those who adhere to the doctrines of the Reformation, and those who do not, is more clearly marked than heretofore. Ministers and churches are more than usually awake to the interests of Zion; the friends of evangelical doctrines are uniting their influence; and the cause of truth and of sound religion is advancing. Very recently, pleasing revivals have been witnessed in the counties of Worcester, Essex, and Middlesex, issuing in large additions to the churches; and in other parts of the State the fruits of less recent revivals are still extensively visible. Many societies have been instituted for promoting the diffusion of evangelical knowledge; and to give them extensive and lasting effects, uncommon liberality and activity are displayed.

On the whole, in New England at large, increased exertions appear to be making for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause; and many indications are presented which should fill the hearts of all the friends of Zion with joy.

We conclude with exhorting all our people to be watchful; guarding their hearts, resisting temptations, living by faith and trusting with unshaken confidence in God. Thus far, through the good hand of our God upon us, we are sustained, and we cheerfully commit ourselves and all our Church to him who is able to keep us from falling, to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

The committee appointed to lay before the Assembly the amount of the subscriptions and donations obtained by the agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, reported that it appeared from the reports of said agents made to this Assembly, that donations to the amount of $14,000 or $15,000 had been obtained for the aforesaid purpose. Of this sum, $3000 are subscribed in the city of New York; 1500 are on papers in the hands of the Rev. John E. Latta, of the state of Delaware; 1100 on papers in the hands of the Rev. Dr. James Hall, of North Carolina; 1000 on papers in the hands of the Rev. Malcolm McNair, of the same State. To the support of this institution, Deacon William Falconer, late of the city of Philadelphia, has devoted the whole of his estate, supposed to be worth eight or nine thousand dollars. A communication was made to Mr. Latta by Mr. William Minnes, of Upper Octorara, and by Mr. Latta was made to the Assembly in the following words:

"A donation by the subscriber to be paid over one year after his decease.

Item, To the Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and to their successors and assigns, I give and bequeath the sum of two hundred dollars, to be applied toward the spreading of the gospel on the frontiers of the United States, and toward civilizing and instructing in arts and religion the Indians of North America, under the direction of said Assembly. And also I give and bequeath the sum of two hundred dollars, toward the support of the Theological School, if said school be established by the said Assembly.

Signed WILLIAM MINNES.

*April 30th*, 1811."

From the statement of the agents it moreover appeared, that on account of peculiar circumstances, they have not in many places made any application for donations for this object; nevertheless, sufficient grounds are afforded to believe that, by suitable exertions, ample funds will be obtained for the establishment and support of a Theological School, under the direction of the General Assembly.

The following resolution was submitted to the Assembly, and being read, was adopted:

"Whereas the Church under the care of this Assembly, has not experienced such gracious visitations, during the year past, as in some former periods; and whereas, there is a great and urgent want of faithful preachers of the word, to carry the messages of salvation to those who are destitute of the blessings of the gospel; and whereas, it is the duty and privilege of Christians to supplicate the blessing and direction of God, in regard to all lawful objects and concerns, and especially in regard to those which relate to the Church: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the second Thursday of November next be set apart as a day of special prayer to the great Head of the Church, that he would grant a plentiful effusion of his Spirit upon our churches, and upon our country; that he would accompany with his blessing, his word and ordinances where they are enjoyed; that he would raise up and send forth a sufficient number of able and faithful ministers, to supply those destitute regions which are famishing for want of the bread of life; and that he would prosper all endeavours to extend the knowledge and blessings of the gospel to the heathen and the Jews, and fill the world with the glory of God; and it is hereby recommended to all ministers and congregations to celebrate public worship on the day which has been specified."

Ordered, That the rule of the Assembly contained in the Book of Rules, relative to reports from inferior to superior judicatories, be republished in the printed extracts.

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain if any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was determined that none be reported this year to the Presbyteries as delinquents in this case.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of twenty-two dollars to Joseph Jacobs, for nine days' service rendered the Assembly, and for stationery, &c., furnished by him for their use.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, the third Thursday in May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, therefore, dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed by the Constitution of the Church. Concluded with prayer.

### SUMMARY FOR 1811.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Londonderry, | 13 | 1 | 12 | 724 | $174 |
| Geneva, | 12 | 2 | 10 | 389 | 28 |
| Oneida, | 7 | — | 12 | 379 | 96 |
| Albany, | 10 | — | 16 | 1228 | 177 |
| Columbia, | 11 | 1 | 17 | 859 | 142 |
| Hudson, | 20 | 2 | 26 | 1459 | 248 |
| Long Island, | 10 | 5 | 15 | 1013 | 52 |
| New York, | 10 | 1 | 8 | 904 | 749 |
| Jersey, | 22 | 5 | 25 | 3572 | 535 |
| New Brunswick, | 25 | 5 | 33 | 2099 | 474 |
| Philadelphia, | 20 | 1 | 29 | 1423 | 837 |
| New Castle, | 20 | 2 | 34 | 977 | 87 |
| Carlisle, | 23 | 2 | 30 | 2911 | 240 |
| Lewes, | 4 | — | 19 | 426 | 32 |

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baltimore, | 10 | 1 | 9 | 521 | $360 |
| Huntingdon, | 14 | — | 37 | 1367 | 63 |
| Redstone, | 16 | 1 | 28 | 971 | 150 |
| Ohio, | 22 | 3 | 38 | 3101 | 237 |
| Erie, | 10 | — | 36 | 336 | 25 |
| Hartford, | 14 | 1 | 32 | 1027 | 29 |
| Lancaster, | 9 | — | 25 | 237 | 20 |
| Hanover, | 14 | 4 | 19 | 468 | 572 |
| Winchester, | 7 | — | 18 | 377 | 430 |
| Lexington, | 13 | 4 | 25 | 1058 | 195 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | | |
| West Lexington. | 11 | 2 | 20 | 312 | 57 |
| Washington, | 10 | 1 | 23 | 811 | 65 |
| Transylvania, | 9 | 2 | 23 | 313 | 29 |
| Orange, | 15 | 12 | 39 | 2416 | 45 |
| Concord, | 17 | — | 53 | 713 | — |
| South Carolina, | 9 | 1 | 25 | 634 | — |
| Hopewell, | 5 | — | 14 | 307 | — |
| Union. No report. | | | | | |
| Harmony, | 10 | 1 | 13 | 277 | 45 |
| Muhlenburgh, | 9 | — | 13 | 34 | — |
| West Tennessee, | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Miami, | 5 | 1 | 8 | — | — |
| Cayuga, | 8 | — | 13 | 421 | 22 |
| Onondaga, | 12 | 1 | 13 | 577 | 33 |
| Total, | 460 | 52 | 820 | 23,639 | $6,248 |

## 1812.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 21*st*, 1812.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, May 21st, 1812, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and was opened by the Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., (the Moderator of the last Assembly being absent,) with a sermon from 1 Cor. i. 21: "For after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God, by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. John Niles, and the Rev. Charles Mosher.

PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA—The Rev. Jeremiah Osborn.

PRESBYTERY OF ONONDAGA—The Rev. Joshua Johnson, Rev. Hugh Wallace. Mr. Levi Jerome, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Eli F. Cooly.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., and Rev. John Chester. Messrs. John House, Ezra Sampson, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDONDERRY—The Rev. Daniel Dana.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. William Neill, and Rev. Alexander Monteith. Mr. Gilbert Stewart, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Isaac Lewis, Rev. Isaac VanDoren, Rev. Andrew Thompson, and Rev. Henry Ford. Messrs. Leonard Smith, and David R. Arnell, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., Rev. Philip Milledoler, D. D., and Rev. Gardiner Spring. Messrs. John R. B. Rogers, John E. Caldwell, and John Bingham, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Lathrop Thompson.

PRESBYTERY OF JERSEY—The Rev. Asa Hillyer, Rev. Gershom Williams, Rev. James Richards, and Rev. John McDowell. Messrs. Oliver Wade, Jacob Bonnell, Cornelius Voorhees, and Thomas Manning, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Joseph Clarke, D. D., Rev. George S. Woodhull, Rev. John Cornell, Rev. William Schenck. Messrs. John Skillman, Peter Gordon, and Samuel Holcomb, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Rev. Thomas Dunn, and Rev. John W. Doak. Messrs. Thomas Latimer, William Haslet, Hugh Henry, and Robert Ralston, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Thomas Read, D. D., Rev. Samuel Martin, Rev. Joseph Copes, and Rev. James Magraw. Mr. Amos Slaymaker, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. John McKnight, D. D., Rev. Robert Cathcart, Rev. James Buchanan, and Rev. Amos A. McGinley. Mr. William Brown, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—Mr. Robert Stuart, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND—The Rev. John B. Patterson. Mr. John Buyars, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. John Hutchison, and Rev. James Linn.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. William Speer, Rev. Francis Herron. Mr. Joseph Baldridge, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—None.

PRESBYTERY OF LANCASTER—None.

PRESBYTERY OF HARTFORD—The Rev. James Satterfield.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. William McMillin, and Rev. James Hughes.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. Samuel B. Wilson.

PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—The Rev. Samuel Blain.

PRESBYTERY OF HOPEWELL—None.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST LEXINGTON—The Rev. John P. Campbell.

PRESBYTERY OF WASHINGTON—The Rev. William Williamson.

PRESBYTERY OF UNION—None.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—None.

PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—The Rev. James Hall, D. D.

PRESBYTERY OF ABINGDON—None.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—None.

FIRST PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—None.

SECOND PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—None.

PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—None.

PRESBYTERY OF HARMONY—The Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D.

PRESBYTERY OF MIAMI—The Rev. William Robinson.

Of the General Association of Connecticut, the Rev. Messrs. Benoni Upson, Amasa Jerome, and Aaron Dutton, produced a certificate of their appointment as delegates to represent that body in this Assembly, and accordingly took their seats as members.

Of the General Association of New Hampshire, the Rev. Stephen Chapin produced a certificate of his appointment as a delegate to represent that body in this Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a Moderator and Temporary Clerk, and the Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart was chosen Temporary Clerk.

The minutes of the last Assembly were in part read.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

The Rev. Joseph Patterson, of the Presbytery of Ohio; the Rev. John Matthews, of the Presbytery of Winchester; the Rev. Joseph D. Logan, of the Presbytery of Hanover; the Rev. Benjamin H. Rice, of the Presbytery of Orange; Messrs. James Cowan and Robert Evans, ruling elders from the Presbytery of Baltimore; and Mr. George W. Payne, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Hanover, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The reading of the minutes of the last Assembly was resumed and finished.

The Rev. Drs. Blatchford, Clarke, and Hall, and the Rev. Messrs. Upson, Chapin, Magraw, Hughes, Matthews, and Campbell, and Messrs. Stewart, Bingham, Henry, and Baldridge, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Agreed, that a free conversation on the state of religion, be the order of the day for Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church, in special prayer and other religious exercises; and that Dr. Milledoler, and Messrs. Spring and Richards, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Campbell, Speer, and Baldridge, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Green, and Messrs. Freeman, and Henry, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Miller, and Messrs. Blain, and Caldwell, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Martin, McGinley, and Slaymaker, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Satterfield, Hughes, and Latimer, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Osborn, Niles, and Cowan, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

The records of the Synod of Kentucky were not present.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of Connecticut, reported that they all attended, and that the Association had appointed a committee to devise means for preventing the intemperate use of spirituous liquors, and that the next meeting of the Association is to be held in the town of Sharon, Litchfield county, on the third Tuesday in June next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire, reported that they attended, and that the Association appointed a committee to correspond and co-operate with the committee appointed by the last Assembly to devise measures against the excessive and intemperate use of spirituous liquors; that the following persons, viz: the Rev. Asa McFarlane, William F. Nowland, John H. Church, Eli Smith, Ethan Smith, Aaron Hall, Abijah Wines, and Drury Fairbank, were appointed a committee to certify the regular standing of ministers and candidates travelling from New Hampshire, and that the next meeting of the Association is to be held at the house of the Rev. Eli Smith, in Hollis, on the third Tuesday of September next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The delegate appointed by the late Assembly to attend the General Convention of Vermont, reported that he had attended, and that the Convention had appointed a committee to co-operate with the committee appointed by the last General Assembly, and with the committees appointed by other public religious bodies, to devise measures to prevent the mischiefs arising from the intemperate use of spirituous liquors; that the Rev. Messrs. Gershom C. Lyman, Bancroft Fowler, Leonard Worcester, Martin Fullar, John Griswold, Jedediah Bushnell, Publius V. Booge, and John Willard, were appointed a committee of credentials; and that the next meeting of the Convention is to be held at the house of the Rev. Sylvester Sage, in Westminster, on the second Tuesday in September, 1812, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Synods which manage the missionary business were called upon to state whether they had reported to the Committee of Missions on the subject, and they stated they had severally reported.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to dispose of the interest due on moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, reported, that agreeably to their appointment they met with a committee of said Trustees, and appropriated the said interest, amounting to $33 81, to the use of a young man studying in the College of New Jersey, in the senior class, with a view to the gospel ministry.

*Resolved*, That the same committee, viz: the Rev. Messrs. David Comfort and Isaac V. Brown, be continued, and report to the next General Assembly.

The Presbyteries were called upon to state the sums they had severally forwarded to the Commissioners' Fund; and Dr. Clarke, and Messrs. Caldwell and Gilbert Stewart, were appointed a committee to report to the Assembly a statement of the sums paid by the several Presbyteries, and make a distribution of the moneys, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

The reports of Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry were called for, and Messrs. McDowell and Woodhull were appointed a committee to prepare a statement exhibiting a general view of these reports, and the decisions of the Assembly upon them.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the farther attention of the Assembly to this subject be postponed till the afternoon.

The following persons were chosen and appointed to serve as a standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia and its vicinity, the Rev. Drs. Blair, Green, Alexander, and Wilson; the Rev. Messrs. Janeway and Potts; Messrs. Boudinot, Hazard, Connelly, Haslett, and Robert Smith:

Of the Synod of Albany, the Rev. Jonas Coe:

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, the Rev. Joseph Clark:

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, the Rev. Robert Cathcart:

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, the Rev. James Hughes:

Of the Synod of Virginia, the Rev. John H. Rice:

Of the Synod of Kentucky, the Rev. James Blythe:

Of the Synod of the Carolinas, the Rev. Dr. James Hall.

A letter from the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, addressed to the Moderator, was read and referred to the consideration of the standing Committee of Missions.

A letter addressed to the Moderator from the Rev. Samuel Worcester, Secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, dated Salem, Massachusetts, was received and read, and referred to the following committee, viz: Drs. McKnight, Green, Milledoler, and Blatchford, and Mr. Campbell, who were directed to report to the Assembly the order proper to be taken by them on the contents of the letter.

*Resolved*, That an election be held by this Assembly for Trustees, and that it be the order of the day for Tuesday morning next.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and Dr. Alexander, were appointed a committee to make extracts from the minutes of this Assembly to be printed.

Agreeably to a standing rule, nominations were made for delegates to attend the General Associations of Connecticut, Massachusetts proper, and New Hampshire, and the General Convention of Vermont.

*Resolved*, That the election for these delegates be held in the afternoon of this day.

A letter from the Presbytery of Washington, stating a deficiency in the printed extracts of last year with respect to the contribution made by the churches within their bounds was received, and being read, was referred to the consideration of the following committee, viz: the Rev. Messrs. Janeway and Williamson, and Mr. Haslett, who were directed to report to the Assembly on the subject of the letter.

The Presbyteries were called upon to report their decisions severally relative to the rule transmitted by the last Assembly to the Presbyteries on the subject of asking advice of the General Assembly or Synods, with respect to ordination *sine titulo;* and Dr. Milledoler and Mr. Lewis were appointed a committee to report to the Assembly a statement of the decisions of the several Presbyteries.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. James Inglis, D. D., of the Presbytery of Baltimore; the Rev. Thomas Moore, of the Presbytery of Redstone; the Rev. John D. Perkins, of the Presbytery of New Castle; the Rev. Robert Lee, of the Presbytery of Erie; and Mr. John Menough, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Castle; appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, an election was held for three delegates to attend the General Association of Connecticut, to meet in the town of Sharon on the third Tuesday of June next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. Messrs. John P. Campbell, Amzi Armstrong, and George C. Potts, were declared duly elected to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut.

It being also the order for this afternoon, an election was held for two delegates to attend the meeting of the General Association of Massachusetts proper, to be held at Westfield on the fourth Tuesday of June next, at 6 o'clock, P. M.

And the Rev. Messrs. John P. Campbell and Amzi Armstrong, were declared duly elected to attend said Association, and the Rev. George C. Potts was chosen alternate to whichever of the delegates may fail to attend, if either should fail.

It being also the order for this afternoon, an election was held for two delegates from this Assembly to the General Association of New Hampshire, which is to meet at the house of the Rev. Eli Smith, in Hollis, on the third Tuesday of September next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The ballot being taken, the Rev. Jonathan Freeman, and the Rev. Robert Finley were declared duly elected to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire.

It being also the order for this afternoon, an election was held for a delegate from this Assembly to the General Convention of Vermont, which is to meet at the house of the Rev. Sylvester Sage, in Westminster, on the second Tuesday in September, 1812, at 3 o'clock, P. M., and the Rev. Jonathan

Freeman was declared duly elected to attend said Convention, and the Rev. Robert Finley was chosen his alternate.

The following committees were appointed to make out supplies for the pulpits of the aforesaid delegates during their necessary absence from their churches.

The Rev. Messrs. Hillyer and Richards were appointed to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr Armstrong.

The Rev Dr. Alexander and Mr. Janeway were appointed to make out supplies for the pulpits of Messrs. Freeman and Potts.

The Rev. Messrs. Comfort and Schenck were appointed to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Finley.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish those delegates with attested copies of the foregoing minutes, which shall serve as their commissions.

*Resolved,* That the delegates be allowed the compensation fixed by a former Assembly.

The calling for the reports of Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth, which was postponed in the morning, was resumed and finished, and a vote was taken on the reports of the Presbyteries severally.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Samuel Bayard, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The Synodical and Presbyterial reports were received, and Messrs. McDowell, Matthews, and Buchanan, were appointed a committee to examine these reports, and read to the Assembly those parts which the committee may think necessary to be read. This committee were instructed to inquire whether any, and if any what, amendments may be necessary in the form of reports, and report to the Assembly the result of their inquiry.

An extract from the records of the Synod of Albany, relative to the division of said Synod, was read and referred to the Committee of Overtures.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of Massachusetts proper, reported that they attended, and that the Association had appointed a committee to co-operate with that of the Assembly in devising measures for arresting the progress of the prevailing intemperate use of spirituous liquors, and that they appointed their next meeting to be held at Westfield, on the fourth Tuesday of June next, at 6 o'clock, P. M.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to endeavour to devise measures which may have an influence in preventing the mischiefs resulting from the intemperate use of spirituous liquors, reported, and the report being read by paragraphs, was recommitted to the same committee, to which were added the Rev. Messrs. Dutton, Chapin, Cathcart, Thompson, and McDowell.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to confer with the Trustees of the College of New Jersey on the subject of locating the Theological Seminary in Princeton, and to receive proposals from other places on the subject of locating the institution, reported, and the report being read, the farther consideration of it was made the order of the day for next Tuesday morning.

The committee appointed to report a statement of the decisions of the several Presbyteries on the standing rule proposed by the last Assembly on the subject of ordination, *sine titulo,* reported, and the report being read, was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

"That decisions have been received from the Presbyteries of Albany, New

York, Philadelphia, South Carolina, Transylvania, Union, Miami, Londonderry, Geneva, Hudson, Jersey, New Brunswick, Baltimore, New Castle, Harmony, West Lexington, Washington, and Hanover; and that of these, the first seven are in favour of the rule proposed, and the remaining eleven are against it."

A motion was made and seconded that this subject be now dismissed, i. e. that the proposed rule be not sent down again to the Presbyteries, and after considerable discussion was determined in the affirmative.

The committee appointed to prepare a minute, stating the attention which the Presbyteries severally had paid, as appeared by the votes of the Assembly on the subject, to the selection of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, and to providing funds for their education and support, reported, and their report being read, was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

That the Presbyteries of Oneida, Geneva, Columbia, Albany, Hudson, New York, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, Baltimore, Northumberland, Redstone, Hartford, Ohio, Winchester, West Lexington, Concord, and Harmony have done their duty on the subject; and

That the Presbyteries of Londonderry, Cayuga, Onondaga, Huntingdon, Lexington, Washington, and Miami, have not acted upon the subject, but assigned such reasons as were deemed satisfactory by the Assembly. From the other Presbyteries no reports were received.

That from the reports received, it appears that there are nineteen young men on the education funds in the different Presbyteries.

*Resolved*, That whereas very few of the Presbyteries have complied with the order of the Assembly to send up their reports on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the ministry in writing, it be renewedly enjoined on the several Presbyteries to be careful hereafter to send up annually official written reports.

Adjourned till Monday morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 25*th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. John Codman, a delegate from the General Association of Massachusetts proper, appeared in the Assembly, and his certificate of appointment being read, he took his seat as a member.

The Rev. David S. Bogart, from the Presbytery of Long Island, and Mr. Hugh Gemmel, a ruling elder, from the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

Mr. Joseph C. Hornblower, the alternate to Mr. Wade, being present, and Mr. Wade being absent, took his seat as a member.

A letter from Mr. Thomas B. Craighead, late a member of the Presbytery of Muhlenburg, containing a complaint of grievances relative to his deposition from the gospel ministry, was received, and being read, was committed to Dr. Hall, and Messrs. Richards and Hughes, who were instructed to report as soon as practicable what order, if any they deem necessary, shall be taken on the letter by the Assembly.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to receive written and verbal communications on the state of religion; and Dr. McKnight and Messrs. Matthews, and Amasa Jerome, were appointed a committee to prepare a connected narrative of the information which may be received on the subject, and lay it before the Assembly.

The Assembly having proceeded to considerable length in this business adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The business which was left unfinished in the forenoon, was resumed and finished.

Communications were received on the state of religion from all the Presbyteries represented in the Assembly, and from the delegates from the Associations of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual accounts, settled and approved by a committee of the Trustees, and it was laid on the table for the inspection of the members of the Assembly.

The Committee of Missions commenced the reading of their first report, and after they had made considerable progress, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. William Brown, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Carlisle, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read, he took his seat as a member.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. Dr. James Inglis, for the missionary sermon which, by the appointment of the Committee, he had preached the preceding evening.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the Assembly proceeded to elect a Trustee to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin. The ballot being taken, the Rev. John W. Doak was declared duly elected.

*Resolved*, That no farther election for Trustees be held this year.

The Committee of Missions resumed the reading of their first report and finished it, and it was committed to Messrs. Bogart and Hillyer, who were directed to select and report to the Assembly, those articles which may require the attention of the Assembly.

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly an overture for the appointment of a day of humiliation and prayer.

*Resolved*, That a day for these purposes be appointed, and that Dr. Blatchford, and Messrs. Campbell, and Hornblower, be a committee to nominate the day and to prepare and report to the Assembly a minute to be adopted on the subject.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for the concert of prayer reported, and their report was accepted and laid on the table, for the direction of the persons who are to perform the exercises.

The Rev. John Burton, the principal mentioned in Mr. Perkins's commission being present, took the place of Mr. Perkins as a member.

Mr. Copes resigned his seat to the Rev. John E. Latta, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Latta took his seat as a member.

The agents appointed by last Assembly to solicit donations for the establishment of a Theological Seminary, being called upon to report the result of their attention to the object; reports were received from a principal part of them, and Messrs. Mosher, Chester. and Neill, were appointed a committee to report to the Assembly the information on the subject.

It being the order of the day, the report of the committee on the subject of locating the Theological Seminary was called up.

A motion was made and seconded that said seminary be located at Princeton. After considerable discussion on the motion, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The discussion of the motion made in the forenoon was resumed, and after still farther discussion of the subject, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 27*th,* 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The subject left unfinished yesterday afternoon was again resumed.

A motion was made and seconded, that the subject of locating the Theological School be postponed for the present year, and recommended to the attention of the next Assembly.

The question being taken was determined in the negative.

The original motion was then called up, and was amended, and with the amendment is as follows:

*Resolved,* That Princeton be the site of the Theological Seminary, leaving the subject open as to its permanency, agreeably to the stipulations agreed upon by the joint committee of the last Assembly and the Trustees of the College of New Jersey. After some discussion of the resolution thus amended, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to form a connected narrative of the information received on the state of religion, brought in their report, which being read by paragraphs, and in part amended, was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Mr. Codman, for farther amendment,

A complaint from Mr. Francis Hindman, against the Presbytery of New Castle, for not granting him a new trial in his case agreeably to the resolution of last Assembly, having been put into the hands of the Moderator, was read, together with several papers accompanying it; and having been before the Committee of Overtures who refused to overture it, was referred to the following committee, viz: Dr. Miller, Messrs. Lewis, Spring, Caldwell, and Hornblower, who were authorized to call for other papers, and to cite witnesses, if they deem it necessary, and were directed to report to the Assembly, the result of their attention to the subject.

Messrs. Martin, Menough, and Evans, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The subject of locating the Theological Seminary was again called up, and being under discussion, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 28*th,* 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The committee appointed to report a minute on the appointment of a day of fasting, reported, and their report being read, was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Dr. Miller.

The resolution for locating the Theological Seminary was again resumed, and after considerable discussion, and special prayer for direction on the important subject, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, That Princeton be the site of the Theological Seminary, leaving the subject open as to its permanency, agreeably to the stipulations agreed upon by the joint committees of the last Assembly and the Trustees of the College of New Jersey."

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee to which the report on the appointment of a day of fasting was referred, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"At a time like the present, when there exist many and serious causes of apprehension to our country; when the footsteps of divine judgment are strongly marked in various calamitous events, as well as in the disastrous and boding aspect of public affairs; the indications of danger, no less than of guilt, are too visible to be mistaken, and too alarming not to be felt. The portentous and variegated visitations of Heaven's justice, together with the low condition of vital religion, and the great prevalence of vice in different sections of the United States, give awful admonition to the General Assembly, and the people under their care, on the subject of humbling themselves under the mighty hand of God; of learning to do righteousness, and of earnestly deprecating those national judgments which there is too much reason to apprehend may be 'the beginning of sorrows.' Wherefore,

*Resolved*, That the last Thursday of July next, be observed by all the churches under the care of the General Assembly, as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that we, as a people, may, with united hearts, beseech Almighty God to remove the judgments which we feel, and to save us from those which we fear; to grant us undissembled sorrow for our numerous sins, and our abuse of his numberless blessings; to give, in his mercy, a yet more glorious and diffusive spreading to the triumphs of the cross, and the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ in the earth; to preserve unimpaired, and perpetuate our happy constitution and republican form of government, and to shed down in rich abundance upon our churches, upon our beloved country, and upon our world, the influences of his Holy Spirit, and the blessings of his great salvation."

The committee to which the narrative of the state of religion had been referred, reported the narrative amended, and it was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"Though complaints have been heard from some parts within our bounds, of coldness, lukewarmness, and indifference to the things of religion, yet, during the course of the past year, there appears to have been a very general increased attention to the institutions of the gospel. A number of new congregations have been formed, and considerable additions made to the communion of the church. Warmly and firmly united to a strict adherence to the great doctrines of grace, our churches are living in harmony and brotherly affection, edified, and edifying one another.

Notwithstanding there have not been any general revivals, yet, with much pleasure, and with gratitude to Zion's King, we have heard that several parts of our church, particularly several congregations within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Geneva, Cayuga, Oneida, Columbia, Hudson, Jersey, New Brunswick, Harmony, and Miami, have been visited; some with smaller, and others with more copious effusions of the influences of the Spirit. In some of these places, the power of divine and sovereign grace has been displayed in several remarkable conversions; and in others, much weight of influential character thrown decidedly into the scale of religion; whilst they who have been the professed and hopeful subjects of divine grace in late revivals, manifest the sincerity of their profession by a conversation and deportment corresponding therewith.

An increased attention and diligence have been manifested to the duties of visiting and catechizing—those important means of training up and establishing the rising generation in the truth of our holy religion.

Praying societies continue to be generally well attended, and their number has been considerably increased.

The continuance of missionary societies formerly established, with the formation of others embracing in their plans missions, both foreign and domestic, the increased number of societies for distributing Bibles and religious tracts, and for the education of poor children, manifest an active and growing zeal for extending the boundaries of the Mediator's kingdom, and diffusing the light of the glorious gospel of the blessed God.

It is with peculiar pleasure we here notice the active benevolence of pious females, associated in different places for prayer, for affording pecuniary aid to Missionary and Bible Societies, for establishing schools, and personally attending to the education, particularly of poor children.

The detail of the enlarged plan on which the General Assembly have been enabled to send missionaries into our extensive new settlements, the joy and gratitude with which they have been received, and the success with which it has pleased the great Head of the Church to crown their labours, have been heard with tender and delightful emotions. The wilderness and the solitary places have been made glad for them, and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Some awful displays of the power and displeasure of Jehovah, appear to have been instrumental in bringing a number of persons to serious reflection, and of inducing some to take refuge in the hope set before them in the gospel; while others have still remained asleep in fatal security. How stupid and thoughtless must they be, who, when numbers enveloped in flames have descended into one promiscuous tomb, do not lay to heart the uncertainty of life, and the all important concerns of their souls! How secure and hardened are they who are not alarmed and excited to flee from the wrath to come, when God has thus arisen to shake terribly the earth, and whilst it is reeling and tottering under their feet, threatening to swallow them up in quick destruction!

Infidelity, though not entirely banished, in general affects obscurity and concealment from the light of the gospel.

Profane swearing, drunkenness, and Sabbath-breaking, appear to be the crying sins of our land, against which the heralds of the cross, the professors of religion, and all who wish well to the interests of either civil or religious society, are particularly called to oppose all the influence of warning, discipline, example, and the execution of such wholesome laws as have been enacted against them.

The success of attention to the spiritual interest of the people of colour amongst us, has, in some instances, been pleasing and encouraging.

By the delegation of the General Association of Connecticut, we learn that there have been revivals in some of their churches; that there has been a considerable increase of members; and that there are happy effects of former revivals among them.

The delegation from New Hampshire give us the pleasing intelligence of the increase of a missionary spirit, of a growing attention to religious instruction, of firmness in adhering to the doctrines of grace, and of revivals among them in the course of the last year.

By the delegation from Massachusetts, we are informed that there are considerable revivals of religion in several churches in that State; that there is a great zeal manifested among the pious for translating the Scriptures, and for foreign missions, and that money for these objects flows in upon them; that there are several institutions among them for diffusing religious knowledge, for counteracting error, and checking the progress of vice.

Upon the whole, it appears that, whilst the General Assembly find cause to mourn over and to lament the errors and vices which are apparent amongst us, the lukewarmness of some of our churches, and the multitudes who are still in an unconverted state, thoughtless and secure; they at the same time find great cause of joy, and of gratitude and praise, to the great Head of the Church for the union, the harmony, and the peace which prevail throughout our churches; for the generally increased attention to the institutions of religion; for the numbers, who, we trust, shall be saved, that have been added to our communion, and for the gracious visitation of several parts within our bounds, by the influences of his blessed Spirit. And they desire to improve these things, as incitements and encouragements to renewed exertions and endeavours. 'Let the people praise thee, O Lord; let all the people praise thee. May Zion arise and shine. May she put on her beautiful garments. May she look forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners. May the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth; and all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God.'"

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk have printed 500 copies of the narrative of the state of religion, and of the minute of the appointment of a day of fasting.

The following plan of an agreement between a committee appointed by the last General Assembly, and a committee of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, for the location and establishment of a Theological Seminary, was submitted to this Assembly, and was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"1. That the Theological Seminary, about to be erected by the General Assembly, shall have its location in Princeton or its immediate vicinity, in the state of New Jersey; and in such connection with the College of New Jersey, as is implied in the following articles.

2. That the Trustees of the College engage, that the General Assembly and directors to be by them appointed, shall carry into full and complete effect, without any interposition, interference, let, or hindrance from them, the Trustees or their successors, the whole plan of a Theological Seminary as laid down and agreed upon at a meeting of the Assembly in the present year of our Lord 1811. That is to say, that the said General Assembly shall appoint their directors, choose their professors, carry on their instruction, govern their pupils, and manage their funds as to them shall appear best.

3. That the Trustees of the College engage to the General Assembly freely to allow them to erect, at their own expense, on the grounds belonging to the College, such buildings for the accommodation of pupils and professors as they may judge proper, and which may not interfere with the buildings and their conveniences already erected by the Trustees; and to prevent all future

dissatisfaction on this subject, that it be agreed that when the General Assembly or the directors of the Theological Seminary may wish to erect any building on the College grounds, and there shall be any discordance of views relative to the same, then the General Assembly or the directors aforesaid, shall appoint three men, and the Board of Trustees the same number, and these six shall choose one man, not belonging to either body; and these seven men, by a majority of votes, shall determine whether said building can be properly erected on said grounds, and if so, what shall be the site and size of the same; and that this determination shall be conclusive and final with both parties. Provided nothing contained in this article shall be understood to prohibit the General Assembly, or the directors of the Theological Seminary from making use of any other ground within the limits prescribed in article first for the purposes aforesaid.

4. That the Trustees engage to the General Assembly to grant them every practical accommodation in the buildings now existing, not only till others may be erected by the Assembly, but afterwards, so long as the same may be desirable.

5. That the Trustees engage to endeavour to receive into the college all the youth whom the Assembly, or the directors by them appointed, may send to it for the purpose of education, subject to such examination at entrance, and to such discipline during their residence in college as the other pupils of the college are subjected to; the Trustees to receive for the expenses of board, tuition, and room-rent, the same as for others; and giving to the Assembly the assurance that as pupils increase, and the funds of the college will permit, they will reduce as low as possible all the expenses of the pupils under their care.

6. That the Trustees agree to receive and hold, for the use of the Assembly, such sums of money as they may voluntarily choose to deposit in the hands of the Trustees for improvement, so as to incur no inconvenience to such Trustees from the limitation of their charter; and that such sums of money be accordingly invested in such funds as the Assembly shall direct; that the Trustees pay the interest thereof when received, to the order of the Assembly; keep it wholly separate from the funds of the college, and pay over or transfer to the order of the Assembly, the principal sum whenever they shall so direct.

7. That the Trustees grant to the professors and pupils of the Theological Seminary the free use of the college library, subject to such rules as may be adopted for the preservation of the books, and the good order of the same.

8. That if the General Assembly shall wish to establish at Princeton an elementary school, for the instruction of youth in such learning as usually precedes their entrance into college, the Trustees agree to aid them in this undertaking, by every accommodation, and all the patronage in their power; so, however, as not to engage to make drafts on the funds of the College for the purpose.

9. That, if at any time, the General Assembly shall find that the connection between their seminary and the college does not conduce sufficiently to the great purposes contemplated to be answered by the said seminary, they shall be at liberty to remove it to some other place. And the Trustees engage that, while the Theological Seminary shall remain at Princeton, no professorship of theology shall be established in the College.

10. That, whereas the Trustees of the College have in their hands a fund, the annual income of which is nearly eighteen hundred dollars, appropriated by the donors to the education of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry of the Presbyterian denomination; the Trustees give an assurance to the

Assembly, that if the first of these articles take effect, they will pay a high regard to the recommendation of the Assembly, or of their directors, as to the youth who shall receive the benefit of this fund.

Ashbel Green,
Richard Stockton,
John Woodhull,
Committee of the Trustees of New Jersey College.
Archibald Alexander,
Jacob J. Janeway,
Robert Ralston,
John McDowell,
Committee of the General Assembly.

*Princeton*, *June* 26, 1811."

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish the Trustees with an attested copy of the above plan of agreement.

*Extract of a letter from Richard Stockton, Esq.*

"I have received yours of Saturday, and authorize you to say, that I will give four acres of land at the place proposed for the purposes of the *principal edifice* of the Seminary and *its offices*, and *a campus in front and rear*."

Compared with the original,
George S. Woodhull,
John McDowell.

*Philadelphia*, 29*th May*, 1812.

*Resolved*, That an election for Directors of the Theological Seminary, and for a Professor of Didactic and Polemic Divinity, and other Professors, if the Assembly think proper, be held on Saturday morning next.

Dr. Miller resigned his seat to Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Dr. Romeyn being present took his seat as a member.

Drs. Romeyn and Milledoler, and Mr. Bayard, were appointed a committee to prepare and report to the Assembly a plan to be adopted for the election of Directors of the Theological Seminary, and of Professors in said institution.

Petitions were overtured from the Presbyteries of Washington, and Lancaster, of the Synod of Kentucky, by the Committee of Overtures, of which petitions, the prayer was, that the Presbyteries of Washington, Lancaster, and Miami, be erected by this Assembly into a separate Synod.

After hearing the representations made on the subject of these petitions by different members of the Synod of Kentucky, and considerable discussion on the subject, it was

*Resolved*, That inasmuch as it did not appear to the Assembly that the Synod of Kentucky is desirous of being divided, nor that the Presbyteries petitioning complain of any hardship or injustice from their Synod in refusing to make a request for the division petitioned, it is by no means expedient at present that these petitions be granted.

The following application from the Synod of Albany was overtured by the Committee of Overtures, that said Synod be divided in the manner following, viz:

"That the Presbyteries of Londonderry, Columbia, Albany, and Oneida, form the eastern division, and be constituted a Synod, to be called and known by the name of the Synod of Albany; and that they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian Church in the city of Albany, on the first Wednesday in October next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and that the meeting be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., and in case of his absence, then by the eldest minister present.

That the Presbyteries of Onondaga, Cayuga, and Geneva, form the western division, and be constituted a Synod, to be called and known by the name of the Synod of Geneva; and that they hold their first meeting in the First Presbyterian Church in Geneva on the first Wednesday in October next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and that the meeting be opened with a sermon by the Rev. David Higgins, and in case of his absence, then by the eldest minister present."

*Resolved*, That the Synod of Albany be divided as above, and it hereby is accordingly divided.

Dr. McKnight had leave of absence till Tuesday morning next, and Mr. Gordon during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 29th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee to which the first report of the Committee of Missions had been referred, reported, and their report being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

1. That the recommendation of the Committee of Missions to the Assembly to allow the Rev. John Lindsley his full salary for two months, be, for the reasons assigned by the committee, approved.

2. That the recommendation of the Committee of Missions to allow the Rev. Jedediah Chapman one month's salary, be approved.

3. That the payment of the Rev. George Spratt's salary, shortly after the completion of the missionary labours assigned him by the Committee of Missions, be, for the reasons they state, approved.

4. That the recommendation of the committee to allow the Rev. Thomas Cleveland his salary for two months, be, for the reasons they assign, approved.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly issue warrants for the payment of the following sums, as hereafter specified, viz:

To Mr. Matthew Harrison, $53.76. Rev. Enoch Whipple, 63.08½. Rev. John Lindsley, 25.71. Rev. John Davenport, 29.73. Mr. Ezekiel Glasgow, 60.26. Rev. John Gloucester, 66.67. Rev. Alexander Cook, 66.67. Rev. Thomas Moore, 47.60. Rev. John H. Rice, 100.00. Rev. Henry Ford, 13.86. Rev. Joshua Johnson, 33.34. Rev. John Boyd, 44.29. Rev. James Hughes, 50.00. Rev. John Clark, 30.65½. Rev. Oliver Ayre, 18.90. Rev. Robert Wilson, 31.83. Rev. R. B. Dobbins, 18.26. Rev. James Cunningham, 96.68½. Rev. Joseph Stevenson, 52.67. Rev. Stephen Bovelle, 8.98. Rev. James McGready, 100.00. Rev. Thomas Cleland, 42.55. Rev. Samuel R. Robertson, 36.00. Rev. John Lisle, 90.00. Rev. James Kemper, 87.60½. Rev. John McLean, 71.68. Mr. Benjamin H. Rice, 60.38. Rev. Joseph Johnson, 16.66½. Rev. Joseph Shaver, 33.33½. Rev. Matthew G. Wallace, 27.83.

*Resolved*, That the recommendation of the Committee of Missions to the Committee of the Trustees, for the payment of $10.80, to Jane Aitken; $153.90, to Thomas and William Bradford; $41.87, to the Rev. J. Janeway; and $4.30, to the Rev. Dr. Green, for the several reasons specified, be approved.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly approve the fidelity and diligence of the Committee of Missions in executing the trust confided to them.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be authorized to expend in support of a mission to the Cherokees, annually, $500; and that they be authorized to revive that mission, in conjunction with the New Jersey Missionary Society, agreeably to the plan proposed by the Committee in their report.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to direct the missionaries employed by them to keep the account of moneys which they may receive for performing missionary labour, on a distinct page in their respective journals.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, and the book was approved to page 233.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, and the book was approved to page 430.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported, and the book was approved to page 86.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia, reported, and the book was approved to page 141.

Mr. Bayard resigned his seat to Mr. Francis D. Janvier, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Janvier took his seat as a member.

The delegates from the Association of Connecticut, agreeably to their instruction, communicated to the Assembly Dr. Trumbull's design to write the history of the American churches, of every denomination of Christians within the United States, and in the name of their Association solicited the aid of this Assembly to so laudable a purpose.

*Resolved*, That the consideration of this subject be the order of the day for this afternoon.

The committee appointed to examine a communication from the Presbytery of Washington, on the subject of a deficiency in the extracts of the last year, relative to the contributions within their bounds, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That the deficiency complained of arose from an error of the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Kentucky, to which that Presbytery belongs, in copying the Presbyterial report.

The committee appointed to prepare a plan to be adopted for the election of directors of the Theological Seminary, and of professors in said institution, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

" 1. That when the Assembly shall proceed to the election of Directors of the Theological Seminary, the Clerk shall call on the members severally to nominate any number of persons, not exceeding the number to be elected, if he shall think it expedient to make any nomination.

2. That when the members have been severally called upon in the order of the roll to make a nomination, agreeably to the above rule, the names of the persons nominated shall be immediately read by the Clerk for the information of the members, and that on the day following, the Assembly proceed to elect by ballot the whole number of Directors to be chosen.

3. That two members be appointed to take an account of the votes given for the candidates nominated for Directors of said Theological Seminary, and to report to the Assembly the number of votes for each of the said candidates, who have a plurality of votes, who shall be declared duly elected; but if the whole number to be elected should not be elected, and two or more of the candidates should have an equal number of votes, then in that case the house shall proceed to elect from the nomination a sufficient number to complete the Board, and shall continue to vote in this manner until the full number specified by the constitution of the Theological Seminary be completed.

4. When the votes shall have been counted, and the requisite number of Directors shall have been elected in the manner above specified, the Moderator shall announce to the Assembly the names of those persons who shall appear to have the highest number of votes, and are thus elected.

5. That whenever a Professor or Professors are to be elected, the Assem-

bly by a vote shall determine the day when said election shall be held, which day shall be at least two days after the above determination has been made. Immediately after the vote fixing the day has passed, the Assembly shall have a season for special prayer for direction in their choice. The election in all cases shall be made by ballot. The ballots having been counted by two members previously appointed, they shall report a statement of said votes to the Moderator, and in case there shall appear to be an equal number of votes for any two or more candidates, the Assembly shall proceed, either immediately, or at some subsequent period of their sessions, to a new election. The choice being made, it shall be announced to the Assembly by the Moderator."

The Committee of Missions made their second report, which being read, was referred to the same committee to which the first report had been referred.

Nominations were made for Directors of the Theological Seminary.

Messrs. McGinley, Baldridge, and Buyers, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to consider what farther addition or amendments may be necessary in the constitution of the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That on a careful revision of the first and second articles of the constitution, they judge that an alteration is highly expedient in the second section of the first article, and in the first and second sections of the second article; that is to say, that the Board of Directors be enlarged to the number of thirty, and that any number of the Directors not less than eleven shall be a quorum; provided, that in the quorum there shall never be less than six ministers, and that of a quorum constituted by eleven members, the president of the Board, or in case of his absence, the vice-president shall be *always one;* that to the second section of the second article, the word vice-president be added, it will then read thus, 'The Board shall choose out of their own number, a president, vice-president, and secretary. In the absence of the president and vice-president, the senior member present shall preside.'"

The vote for these alterations in the constitution of the Theological Seminary was unanimous, and they were accordingly made in the constitution. The item fixing the quorum was made the third section in the second article.

The communication from the delegates, from the Association of Connecticut, relative to Dr. Trumbull's design to write the history of the American churches of every denomination of Christians, within the United States, and soliciting the aid of this Assembly to so valuable a purpose, was called up and considered. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the foregoing be published in the printed extracts from the minutes of this Assembly.

The committee to which the complaint of Mr. Hindman, against the Presbytery of New Castle, had been referred, reported, and the report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That having carefully examined the papers, committed to them, and having heard Mr. Hindman in his own case, as also a member of the Presbytery of New Castle in explanation of their conduct, they find no cause of complaint against said Presbytery in their treatment of Mr. Hindman.

The committee to which the second report of the Committee of Missions had been referred, reported, and the report being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"1. That the Rev. Enoch Whipple be appointed a missionary for three months; to commence his route on the head waters of Lake Champlain and Scroon, and thence to continue his course down the west side of Lake Champlain, till he reach the north boundary of the county of Essex.

2. That the Presbytery of Columbia be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, on missionary ground within their limits.

3. That the Rev. Jedediah Chapman be appointed a missionary for two months, in the Genesee country, at discretion.

4. That the Presbytery of Oneida be authorized to employ a missionary for two months, on missionary ground, within their bounds.

5. That the Rev. Oliver Ayers be employed as a missionary for two months, in the counties of Tioga, Ontario, and Steuben, in New York; and one month in the Holland purchase.

6. That the Rev. Joshua Johnson be appointed a missionary for two months on missionary ground, within the limits of the Presbytery of Onondaga, and its vicinity. That the Rev. Andrew Rawson be appointed a missionary for two months, in the Holland purchase.

7. That the Presbytery of Cayuga be authorized to employ a missionary, or missionaries, four months, on missionary ground within their limits, and within their vicinity.

8. That Mr. Ezekiel Glasgow be appointed a missionary for one month, in parts adjacent to Pittsburgh, and receive directions in regard to his route from Rev. Messrs. Herron and Hunt.

9. That the Rev. John Clark be appointed a missionary for one month, in Dutchess county, state of New York.

10. That the Presbytery of Hudson be authorized to direct a mission for three months, on missionary ground within their limits, and that they be permitted to divide the time between the missionaries as they may judge most convenient to the interest of the mission.

11. That the Presbytery of New York be authorized to employ a missionary to itinerate three months, at discretion, in the county of Westchester, in the state of New York.

12. That the Presbytery of Jersey be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, on missionary ground within their limits.

13. That the Presbytery of New Brunswick be empowered to employ a missionary, or missionaries, for three months, on missionary ground, within their limits.

14. That the Rev. John Gloucester be appointed a missionary for three months to the blacks in Philadelphia.

15. That the Rev. John Perkins be appointed a missionary for four months, commencing his route a few miles above Easton, in the destitute settlements on both sides of the Delaware, advancing till he enter the state of New York, after which he is to labour on missionary ground within the limits of the Presbytery of Albany.

16. That the Committee of Missions be authorized to employ a missionary or missionaries for three months, on missionary ground, within the limits of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

17. That the Rev. John Coulter be appointed a missionary for two months, on missionary ground, within the limits of the Presbytery of Huntingdon.

18. That the Rev. Alexander Cook be appointed a missionary for four months, two of which are to be spent within the limits of the Presbyteries

of Hartford and Lancaster; and the other two on the Monongahela, from about eighty or ninety miles above Pittsburgh.

19. That the Rev. Samuel Tait be appointed a missionary for one month, between the Allegheny river and Lake Erie.

20. That the Rev. Thomas Moore be appointed a missionary for three months, along the Allegheny river towards the Holland purchase.

21. That the Rev. Robert Lee be appointed a missionary for two months, on missionary ground, within the limits of the Presbytery of Erie and Hartford.

22. That the Rev. John McFarren be appointed a missionary for two months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Erie.

23. That the Rev. James Hughes be appointed a missionary for two months, in the state of Ohio, at discretion.

24. That the Presbytery of Washington be authorized to employ a missionary for three months within their bounds.

25. That the Rev. James Cunningham be appointed a missionary for three months, between Wheeling and the mouth of Ohio, on both sides of the Ohio.

26. That the Rev. Joseph Stevenson be appointed a missionary for one month, in the counties of Tuscarora and Champion.

27. That the Rev. Joseph S. Hughes be appointed a missionary for two months, on the waters of the Sciota, Bigbelly, Alum, and Whitestone.

28. That the Rev. Stephen Bovelle be appointed a missionary for three months, in the western part of the state of Ohio, and in Indiana Territory.

29. That the Rev. Matthew G. Wallace be appointed a missionary for one month, on missionary ground, within the bounds of the Miami Presbytery.

30. That the Rev. James McGready be appointed a missionary for three months, in the Indiana Territory.

31. That the Rev. Thomas Cleland be appointed a missionary for two months, in the counties of Harden, Grayson, Green, and Adams, in Kentucky, with some discretion whether to confine himself to these counties, or to visit other places.

32. That the Presbytery of West Lexington be authorized to employ a missionary for three months, in the counties of Gallatin, Boone, Pendleton, Harrison, Nicholas, and Bath.

33. That the Rev. John P. Campbell be appointed a missionary for two months, within the bounds of the late Cumberland Presbytery, at discretion.

34. That the Rev. John W. Doak be appointed a missionary for six weeks, commencing his route at Fincastle, and proceeding thence, on missionary ground, to Greenville in East Tennessee.

35. That the Rev. Benjamin H. Rice be appointed a missionary for four months, on the Northern Neck, Virginia.

36. That the Rev. Colin McIver be appointed a missionary for three months, between Charleston, South Carolina, and Baltimore, on missionary ground.

37. That Mr. John McLean be appointed a missionary for four months, in the western part of Georgia, and in the Mississippi Territory.

38. That the Rev. William Paisley be appointed a missionary for three months, in the eastern part of Virginia and North Carolina, near the boundary line between the two states.

39. That the Rev. Nathan H. Hall be appointed a missionary for three months, in the Indiana Territory, between the Rolling Forks and Salt River and Green River.

The Committee beg leave to inform the Assembly that there are fields for missionary labours to which it is desirable to send missionaries, but for which they can find none, viz: the Great Bend of the Susquehanna, Silver Lake, and Upper Louisiana.

The Committee suggest to the Assembly the propriety of investing them with the power of appointing as many more missionaries as the funds will bear.

Finally, the Committee inform the General Assembly that but few copies of the pamphlet entitled, 'Missionary Intelligence,' have been sold, and recommend the gratuitous distribution of the remaining copies among the Presbyteries."

Mr. Burton resigned his seat to Mr. Perkins, the alternate mentioned in his commission, and Mr. Perkins took his seat as a member.

Messrs. Gemmill, Robert Steward, and Brown, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 30th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The following overture from the Presbytery of Harmony was brought before the Assembly, in which the Presbytery complained of the decision of the Synod of the Carolinas, relative to the ordination of Mr. Fisk, *sine titulo.*

*Resolved,* That the consideration of the subject of the overture be indefinitely postponed.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas, reported, and the book was approved generally, to the end of the 24th sessions; yet the Assembly recommend to the Synod to review their proceedings relative to the proceedings of the Presbytery of Harmony in ordaining Mr. Fisk, *sine titulo.*

The Committee on the Commissioners' Fund reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That the amount paid into the hands of the Treasurer, for this object, appears per statement annexed to be $1832.62; which allows to each commissioner at the rate of $1.83 per each thirty miles, in coming to and returning from the Assembly.

Some of the Presbyteries, in the opinion of your Committee, have contributed liberally to this fund; this liberality, they think, has not appeared with the Presbyteries generally; they, however, decline naming any of the Presbyteries as having contributed less than their proportion, inasmuch as several of the delegates from the most deficient Presbyteries, and from others, have declined, for the present, to receive any thing from the fund, that they may leave a better proportion to the distant commissioners. In the whole view of the present state, and important design of the Commissioners' fund, your Committee beg leave to submit to the consideration of this Assembly, the propriety of adopting the following as their act.

*Resolved,* That this Assembly view with concern the manifest inattention of many of the Presbyteries, to raising and forwarding their reasonable proportions to the Commissioners' fund. The Assembly clearly foresee that, if this inattention continues, the remoter part of our churches, pressed with an unequal burden from the circumstances of their great distance, will have but a very small representation in the future meetings of the Assembly, and that thereby the great objects of the Assembly, the preserving the union of our churches, and cherishing their interest in every part, however remote, will be greatly impeded, and it may be finally defeated.

*Resolved,* therefore, That it be enjoined on the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly, and especially on those that have been deficient, to pay a particular attention to this duty in future.

Statement of the Presbyteries which have this year paid into the Commissioners' Fund, together with the sums paid by each, viz:

The Presbytery of Onondaga paid $43.88. Geneva, 41.76. Cayuga, 17.62. Oneida, 42.97. Albany, 108.78. Hudson, 105.25. Long Island, 24.27. New York, 251.32. Jersey, 145.57. New Brunswick, 80.13. Philadelphia, 118.06. New Castle, 39.57. Baltimore, 20.00. Huntingdon, 34.00. Northumberland, 16.00. Redstone, 70.08. Ohio, 73.88. Union, 17.50. Washington, 70.00. Hartford, 26.56. Concord, 30.00. Erie, 32.55. Miami, 52.78. Carlisle, 100.00. New Castle, additional, 7.00. Long Island, do. 15.28. Columbia, do. 40.86. Orange, do. 55.00. W. Lexington, do. 35.37. Baltimore, do. 19.00. Harmony, 60.00. Londonderry, 37.58. Total, $1832.62."

*Resolved*, That the hearing of the report of the committee on the subject of disciplining baptized children, be the order of the day for Monday morning next.

A petition signed by a number of persons in Washington, Pa., and its vicinity, praying the revision, with a view to its being rescinded, of the decision of the General Assembly of 1810, respecting the case of Mr. Wylie, postmaster, was overtured.

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioners be not granted.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to the election of Directors of the Theological Seminary. The ballots being taken, they were committed to Messrs. Chester, Rodgers, McDowell, Woodhull, and Schenck, who were directed to read them, and report to the Assembly the number of votes given in for the several candidates.

The following amendment, by unanimous vote, was made to the constitution of the Theological Seminary. In the third section of the second article the words *senior member for the time being* were erased, and the word *vice-president* was inserted in their place. The section then will stand thus: The president of the Board, or in the event of his death, absence, or inability to act, the vice-president shall, at the request, &c.

A letter addressed to the Moderator from Patterson & Hopkins, printers in Pittsburgh, relative to printing a new edition of the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, was received, and being read, was referred to the Trustees of the Assembly, that they may consider the subject, and act as they may think proper upon it.

Drs. Blatchford and Romeyn, and Mr. Matthews, were appointed a committee to consider the propriety of petitioning Congress relative to the repeal of so much of the post-office law as requires the opening of the post-offices and the delivery of letters on the Lord's day; and that if they judge it expedient, they prepare and report to the Assembly a draught of a petition on the subject.

An overture from the Synod of the Carolinas, submitting to the General Assembly the expediency of supplying some deficiencies in the constitution and discipline of the church, was brought in by the Committee of Overtures, and being read, was referred to Dr. Inglis, and Messrs. Neill and Herron, who were directed to consider the subject, and report to the Assembly.

An overture was received from the same Synod, requesting the General Assembly to take upon them the direction of the missionary business within their bounds. This overture being read, it was

*Resolved*, That the request of the Synod be granted; but at the same time the Assembly recommend to the Synod to make all practicable exertions to increase the permanent and contingent funds of the Assembly, appropriated to the support of missions.

The order of the day, viz: the election of professor or professors in the Theological Seminary, was postponed till Monday morning next.

Mr. Buchanan obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*June 1st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. William Rea, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Ohio, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The committee to which the overture from the Synod of the Carolinas, on the subject of a supposed deficiency and incompetency in the Book of Discipline of the Presbyterian Church, with reference to certain specified cases, had been referred, reported, and their report being read, was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

" That on a deliberate inspection of our ecclesiastical standards, no such deficiency or incompetency occurs to the mind of the committee. But inasmuch as it is of importance that the General Assembly should extend the aid of their counsel and direction to every portion of their churches soliciting it, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Synod of the Carolinas be requested to lay before the next Assembly such particulars as they may think desirable, towards the explaining or amending of the provisions of the Book of Discipline in the cases specified in their overture."

The committee appointed to count the votes given in for directors of the Theological Seminary, and to state to the Assembly the number of the votes for the several candidates, reported, and from their report it appeared that the following persons were chosen; and they were, therefore, declared duly elected as directors of the Theological Seminary, viz:

Rev. Messrs. Ashbel Green, D. D., Samuel Miller, D. D., John B. Romeyn, D. D., Archibald Alexander, D. D., Philip Milledoler, D. D., Andrew Flinn, D. D., Samuel Blatchford, D. D., James P. Wilson, D. D., John McKnight, D. D., James Inglis, D. D., Joseph Clark, D. D., Eliphalet Nott, D. D. James Richards, William Neill, John McDowell, Robert Cathcart, Francis Herron, Conrad Speece, Derick C. Lansing, Asa Hillyer; Messrs. William Haslett, Robert Ralston, Henry Rutgers, John Neilson, Samuel Bayard, Zachariah Lewis, John R. B. Rodgers, Divie Bethune, John Vancleve, Elders.

The committee farther reported, that for one of the number of directors there was no election, by reason of an equality of votes. The Assembly, therefore, immediately proceeded to ballot for another director to complete the board, and the Rev. Robert Finley was declared duly elected.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to report to this Assembly on the subject of disciplining baptized children, reported, and the report being read, was recommitted to the same committee for revision and publication, and it was

*Resolved*, That the Assembly, without expressing any opinion on the principles it contains, recommend it to the serious consideration of all the Presbyteries and ministers, that in due time a decision may be had on the important subjects discussed in the report.

*Resolved*, That this minute be printed in the beginning of the pamphlet containing the report of the aforesaid committee.

The election for a Professor of Didactic and Polemic Divinity, was postponed till to-morrow morning.

The committee on the subscriptions to the fund for the Theological Seminary reported, and their report was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Dr. Green; and they were instructed to include in their report all the moneys which are ascertained to have been subscribed and paid, distinguishing those which have been paid.

Dr. Clark, and Messrs. Holcomb and Hornblower, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The following persons were appointed agents for the ensuing year to solicit donations for the establishment of the Theological Seminary:

Of the Synod of Albany—the Rev. Messrs. Jonas Coe, Samuel F. Snowden, Alexander Monteith, Daniel Dana, Eli F. Cooley, Simon Hosack, William Morrison, James Carnahan, William Neill, and John Chester.

Of the Synod of Geneva—the Rev. Messrs. Jedediah Chapman, Henry Axtell, Derick C. Lansing, David Higgins, and Col. John Linklaen.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey—Rev. Drs. Samuel Miller, Philip Milledoler, John B. Romeyn; Rev. Messrs. James Richards, John Clark, David S. Bogart, William Boardman, Lathrop Thompson, David Comfort, John McNeice, Isaac VanDoren, Gardiner Spring, Samuel Fisher, George S. Woodhull, and Messrs. John Mills, and Divie Bethune.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia—the Rev. Drs. Ashbel Green, James Muir, Archibald Alexander, and James Inglis; Rev. Messrs. John Glendy, John E. Latta, John B. Slemons, James Magraw, John B. Patterson, and Messrs. Robert Ralston, Thomas Leiper, John McMullin, Christopher Johnson, William McDonald, William Haslett, Francis Markoe, and William Manus.

In addition to his appointment to solicit in general within his district, the Rev. John E. Latta was appointed to solicit donations particularly in Baltimore.

Of the Synod of Virginia—the Rev. Messrs. Drury Lacey, John D. Blair, William Williamson, Samuel Houston, Conrad Speece, Samuel B. Wilson, Nash Le Grand, James C. Wilson, and Messrs. Hume and William Calhoun.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh—the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Ralston, James Guthrie, William Spear, James Hughes, John Wright, and Johnston Eaton.

Of the Synod of Kentucky—the Rev. Robert G. Wilson, James Blythe, Archibald Cameron, Joshua L. Wilson, James W. Stevenson, and Gideon Blackburn.

Of the Synod of the Carolinas—Rev. Messrs. James Hall, Daniel Brown, Henry Kollock, Malcolm McNair, John Couser, James W. Thompson, Moses Waddell, D. D., William L. Turner, William McPheeters, John Brown, Andrew Flinn, D. D., John Elliott, of Medway, Dr. Buchan, Hon. William B. Chavis, Maj. Samuel Robertson, Dr. John Cumming, of Savannah, Messrs. John Bolton, of Savannah, Thomas Cummings, and John Brownlee, of Charleston.

It was recommended by the Assembly, that the Presbyteries take order, severally, for obtaining donations to the Theological Fund. It was also recommended by the Assembly, that the several Presbyteries of which the agents are members take order for the supply of their pulpits, during their absence from their charges in prosecuting the business of their agency.

The committee to which was referred the report of the committee appointed by the last Assembly to devise measures which may have an influence in preventing the mischiefs arising from the intemperate use of spirituous liquors, reported, and the report being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

"1. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to all the ministers of the Presbyterian church in the United States to deliver public discourses, as often as circumstances may render it expedient, on the sin and mischiefs of intemperate drinking; in which, as well as on other suitable occasions, both public and private, it will be proper pointedly and solemnly to warn their hearers, and especially members of the church, not only against actual intemperance, but against all those habits and indulgences which may have a tendency to produce it.

2. That it be enjoined on all church sessions within the bounds of the General Assembly, that they exercise a special vigilance and care over the conduct of all persons in the communion of their respective churches, with regard to this sin, and that they sedulously endeavour by private warning and remonstrance, and by such public censures, as different cases may require, to purge the church of a sin so enormous in its mischiefs, and so disgraceful to the Christian name.

3. That it be recommended to the ministers and other officers and members of our church, that they exert themselves to diffuse as extensively as possible, among their congregations and the community at large, such addresses, sermons, tracts, or other printed compositions on this subject, as may have a tendency to produce a suitable impression against the use of ardent spirits, and to recommend sobriety and temperance.

4. That it be recommended to the officers and members of our church, to take such measures as may be judged proper and effectual, for reducing the number of taverns and other places of vending liquors by small measure, in all those parts of our country in which either their excessive numbers, or the improper character of such places, render them a public nuisance.

It is believed that the evils arising from these sources are incalculably great, and that by prudent management, they admit, under providence, of very considerable diminution."

The directors of the Theological Seminary recommended to the Assembly, that the professor to be chosen receive for his salary eighteen hundred dollars per annum, and be furnished with a house.

*Resolved*, That the salary of the professor be fixed agreeably to the above recommendation.

*Resolved*, That if any person have any copies which they can spare of the printed extracts of the years 1804, 1806, and 1807, they be requested to forward them as soon as practicable to the Stated Clerk.

*Resolved*, That hereafter the agents appointed to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, report to the Assembly in writing.

The committee to which Mr. Craighead's letter had been referred, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

"That in said letter Mr. Craighead complains, that he was suspended by the Synod of Kentucky without ever being cited before it; that if he was deposed by the Presbytery, it was done while the power of that Presbytery was suspended by his appeal to the General Assembly. He also complains, that no mark of brotherly attention, conference, or admonition had been administered him by any of the judicatories, or any of their members. But inasmuch as these allegations are not in proof before your committee, as the truth of them is disputed by a member of that Synod, and no testimony can be had in the case before this Assembly, the committee are of the opinion, that for these reasons nothing can be done in his case by the present Assembly; and that the regular course for Mr. Craighead is to bring his grievances before the Synod of Kentucky, and if he there support his allegations by proper testimony, that Synod is fully competent to grant him such redress as the merits of his case may demand; and that until this step be taken, it will not be orderly for the General Assembly to take any farther notice of his case.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk forward a copy of the above minute to Mr. Craighead.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey reported, and the book was approved to page 278.

Messrs. Joshua Johnson, Jerome, and Manning, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*June 2d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be directed to pay into the Widow's Fund four hundred dollars of the moneys belonging to the Theological Seminary, as a deposit in favour of the Professor of Didactic and Polemic Divinity.

The committee to which were referred the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, brought in their report, which being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"1. That they find that all the Synods have reported, and also all the Presbyteries, except those of Lancaster, Abingdon, Union, Miami, Muhlenburg, West Tennessee, South Carolina, and Hopewell. Of these, the reports of Union, Miami, and South Carolina, are contained in the Synodical reports of their respective Synods.

2. They state that the report from the Synod of the Carolinas is very deficient; and also the reports of the Presbyteries which have reported from that Synod, except the Presbytery of Harmony. An important deficiency is also observed in the report of the Presbytery of Carlisle in not containing any account of the number of communicants added the last year. In view of these deficiencies,

*Resolved*, That it be enjoined on the Synod of the Carolinas, and the Presbyteries of Carlisle, Orange, and Concord, to be more careful in future to send up their reports made out according to the blank forms prepared by the Assembly.

3. The committee gave it as their opinion, that no alterations at present are necessary in the form of the reports prescribed by the Assembly.

4. The committee read the compendious view which they had taken from the reports, and the Stated Clerk was ordered to have it transcribed into the book prepared for the purpose."

It being the order of the day for this morning, the Assembly proceeded to the election of a Professor of Didactic and Polemic Divinity in the Theological Seminary. After special prayer for direction on the subject, the ballots were taken and read, and the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., was declared duly elected. The election being closed, a special prayer was made for a divine blessing upon the Professor and the Theological Seminary.

Drs. Green and Hall were appointed a committee to wait on Dr. Alexander, and inform him of his appointment.

*Resolved*, That the directors of the Theological Seminary be directed to meet at Princeton, the last Tuesday in June, at 3 o'clock, P. M., and afterwards on their own adjournments; and Dr. Green was directed to write to those directors who were not present and give them notice of the meeting.

The committee appointed to prepare and report to the Assembly a petition to the Congress of the United States, on the subject of the mails being carried and opened on the Sabbath-day, reported a draught of a petition, which being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The petition of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, to the honourable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:

*Humbly Sheweth*—That your petitioners view with deep regret the infractions of the Lord's day, occasioned by the opening of the mail on that day, and the circumstances accompanying such opening.

A variety of considerations, temporal and spiritual, combine, in the judgment of your petitioners, to produce this regret. The institution of the Sabbath by the Creator and Ruler of the world, whilst it clearly proves his benevolent regard for men, imposes upon them the reasonable obligation of devoting this day to his service. He makes it their duty to rest from the toils and labours of six days, and requires from them that they should statedly assemble together for his worship on the seventh. Both these objects contemplated by the institution of the Sabbath, the opening of the mail on that day and the circumstances accompanying it, do contravene and oppose. They who carry the mail, and they who open it, together with those to whom letters or papers are delivered, under the sanction of civil law, neglect the public worship of God in part or whole. Besides this, the noise and confusion attending the carrying and opening of the mail in post towns, too frequently in a most painful manner disturb the devotion of those who prefer their spiritual to their temporal interests. Moreover, the carrying of the mail encourages persons to hire out their carriages on the Lord's day to those who have no fear of God before their eyes, thus adding to the open violation of the day; and to say no more, the brute creatures are made to work on this day over and above the six days, and thus are deprived of the rest to which they are entitled by the authority of God, whilst they are forced to administer to the cupidity of those who forget the truth that the righteous man is merciful to his beast.

Your petitioners are the more deeply impressed with the importance of observing the Sabbath, on account of the influence which such observance has in promoting true morality and social happiness.

On this day all classes of men assemble together in the presence of God on terms of perfect equality, for in his presence the ruler is not more important than the ruled, since both meet as sinners needing the exercise of sovereign and free mercy.

On this day they are taught from the Scriptures, the only source of truth, their duty, their interest, and their happiness.

On this day they unite according to the direction of God, in prayer for all men—for magistrates as well as subjects—for the nation as well as individuals—for every description of persons.

On this day they manifest the gratitude which they owe to God for benefits received, thanking him for his mercies, and supplicating his grace.

The effects arising from the duties in which they engage, the instruction which they receive, and their assembling together before God, are all calculated to produce such a state of heart and such a line of conduct, as directly promote individual and social happiness.

Your petitioners are aware of the plea which is used to justify the infractions of the Sabbath of which they complain. Works of necessity, such as arise out of extraordinary circumstances, or such as are unavoidable for the support and comfort of life, together with works of charity, are admitted to be lawful, for God delighteth in mercy rather than sacrifice. But your petitioners cannot conceive that the ordinary occupations of life, in ordinary times, or the exercise of charity, require such infractions of the Sabbath as are occasioned by the carrying or opening of the mail on that day. For the cases of sickness, to take one of the strongest and most plausible facts included in the plea of necessity, which are communicated by the mail, are too few, and happen at intervals too long, to justify the habitual breach of the Sabbath. As to the ordinary business of life, any prospect of gain, or fear of loss, cannot be admitted as legitimate causes for disobeying the command of God to keep the Sabbath holy. No one ever yet has suffered, or will suffer, in obeying God rather than his cupidity, his ambition, or his lusts.

Your petitioners, moreover, feel themselves constrained in their office as rulers in the Church, to exercise the discipline of that Church against those of their members who break the Sabbath in the carrying or opening of the mail on that day. In doing this they are not conscious of any disrespect to the civil authority of the land. They wish to render unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's, but must at every hazard, render unto God the things which are God's. In thus honouring God more than men, they trust their motives will be respected, and their conduct approved.

Your petitioners are the more deeply impressed with the importance of a strict observance of the Sabbath, and the necessity of an alteration in the existing regulations of the post-office, as far as they relate to the Sabbath, from the prospect of a war. As they firmly believe in the special providence of God, and that this providence is exercised according to those principles of truth and equity revealed in the Scriptures, they fear, and have just reason to fear, that the infractions of the Sabbath allowed by civil law, will draw down upon our nation the divine displeasure. God honours those who honour him, and casts down those who forget him. Obedience to his will adds dignity to rulers, and enforces subjection in those who are ruled.

From all these considerations which have been given in detail, your petitioners pray for such an alteration in the law relative to mails, as will prevent the profanation of the Sabbath, which now takes place in conveying and opening the mail. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c."

Ordered, that this petition be signed by the Moderator, and attested by the Clerk, and be committed to the Moderator to forward to Congress.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly, under whose care the funds of the Theological Seminary are placed, pay out of said funds, upon the order of the directors of said Seminary, a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars for promoting the designs of that institution for the current year.

*Resolved*, That the directors of the Theological Seminary devise and digest a plan for the formation of a permanent and contingent fund.

The consideration of the articles 7th and 9th, in the Constitution of the Theological Seminary, which had been referred to this Assembly by the last Assembly, was again deferred.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of thirty-four dollars out of the Commissioners' Fund, to Mr. William Rea, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Ohio.

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Geneva be authorized to employ a missionary for three months.

Dr. McKnight returned to the Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

The committee to which was referred a letter addressed to the Moderator by the Secretary of the "American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions," reported, and the report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That having had under consideration the important and interesting vote of the American Board of Commissioners, by which they submit to the Assembly, 'the expediency of forming an institution similar to theirs, between which and them may be such a co-operation as shall promote the great object of missions amongst unevangelized nations,' it appears proper to state,

1. That it is matter of sincere joy in their apprehension to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ and the souls of men, a joy in which the committee doubt not that the Assembly has a lively participation, that the brethren of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions have, by the exertions they have used, and the success of those exertions, demonstrated, that the churches of America are desirous to embark with their Protestant brethren in Europe in the holy enterprise of evangelizing the heathen.

2. That as the churches under the care of the Assembly rejoice in the Foreign Missions, organized and about to be organized by the American Board of Commissioners, so, as opportunity favours, they ought to aid them, as they have in a measure already aided them by contributions to their funds, and by every other facility which they could offer to so commendable an undertaking.

3. That as the business of foreign missions may probably be best managed under the direction of a single Board, so the numerous and extensive engagements of the Assembly in regard to domestic missions, render it extremely inconvenient at this time to take part in foreign missions. And the Assembly, it is apprehended, may the rather decline these missions, inasmuch as the committee are informed that missionary societies have lately been instituted in several places within the bounds of the Presbyterian church, which make foreign missions a particular object of their attention."

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk transmit an attested copy of the above report to the Secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, as an answer to the letter directed by him to the Moderator of the Assembly.

A letter from the Rev. Thaddeus Osgood, missionary, was read, in which Mr. Osgood requested of the Assembly a recommendation.

The letter was referred to the Committee of Missions, who were directed to take such order upon it as they may think proper.

The committee appointed to make a statement of the moneys subscribed and collected for the funds of the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

"That the Rev. Mr. Morrison had obtained subscriptions amounting to $60.00, had collected $60.00. Rev. Mr. Coe, 435.00, collected 370.00. Rev. Mr. Neil, 2140.00, collected 1375.00. Rev. Dr. Romeyn, 2060.00, collected 1596.13. Rev. Dr. Milledoler, 168.75, collected 68.75. Rev. Dr. Green, 1635, collected 500.00. Rev. Mr. Spear, 1150.00, collected 241.00. Rev. Mr. Hughes, 795.10, collected 200.00. Rev. Dr. Hall, 1100.00, collected 273 00. Rev. John E. Latta, 1500.00, collected 1029.35. Rev. Malcolm McNair, 1000.00, collected . . . Rev. Dr. Miller, 1800.00, collected 100 00. Deacon Falconer's Legacy, 9000.00. Mr. William Minnes' Legacy, 200.00. Mr. Ebenezer Turell's Legacy, 375.00. Total subscribed, $23,418.85. Total collected, $5813.23.

The $200, a legacy by Mr. Minnes, is included in the $1500 opposite to Mr. Latta's name. Deduct this from the sum subscribed, leaves $23,218.85.

Agreeably to the recommendation of the aforesaid committee, the Assembly instructed the Directors of the Theological Seminary to address the Christian public on the subject of contributing to the funds of the important institution now organized and located.

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain if any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was determined that none be reported to the Presbyteries as delinquents in the above case.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of twenty-seven dollars and thirty-seven and a half cents to Joseph Jacobs, for eleven days' service rendered the Assembly, and for articles furnished for their use.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk, agreeably to the rate fixed by a former Assembly; and for stationery furnished by him for the use of the Assembly.

*Resolved,* That this Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, the third Thursday in May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, therefore, dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed by the Constitution of the Church. Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1812.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Londonderry, | 14 | — | 11 | 756 | $106 |
| Albany, | 10 | 1 | 16 | 1628 | 191 |
| Oneida, | 8 | — | 13 | 443 | 78 |
| Onondaga, | 13 | 1 | 18 | 784 | 43 |
| Cayuga, | 10 | — | 15 | 392 | 17 |
| Columbia, | 11 | 2 | 18 | 761 | 185 |
| Geneva, | 13 | 3 | 14 | 538 | 46 |
| Hudson, | 21 | 2 | 27 | 1411 | 203 |
| Long Island, | 12 | 3 | 16 | 701 | 87 |
| New York, | 11 | 1 | 10 | 1413 | 816 |
| Jersey, | 21 | 3 | 25 | 3654 | 501 |
| New Brunswick, | 23 | 5 | 33 | 2261 | 487 |
| Philadelphia, | 20 | 2 | 29 | 1685 | 745 |
| New Castle, | 26 | 1 | 54 | 1899 | 159 |
| Carlisle, | 24 | 2 | 36 | 1874 | 239 |
| Baltimore, | 10 | 1 | 10 | 537 | 174 |
| Huntingdon, | 9 | — | 25 | 928 | 62 |
| Northumberland, | 5 | — | 10 | 947 | 36 |
| Redstone, | 18 | — | 27 | 1471 | 84 |
| Ohio, | 23 | 3 | 41 | 3602 | 233 |
| Erie, | 10 | — | 36 | 648 | 32 |
| Hartford, | 15 | 1 | 35 | 1231 | 26 |
| Lancaster. No report. | | | | | |
| Hanover, | 15 | 2 | 18 | 449 | 634 |
| Lexington, | 13 | 3 | 24 | 671 | 194 |
| Winchester, | 9 | — | 18 | 422 | 391 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | | |
| Transylvania, | 13 | — | 21 | 694 | 68 |
| Union, | 6 | 2 | 13 | 843 | 20 |
| Washington, | 11 | — | 27 | 884 | 184 |
| Miami, | 6 | 1 | 13 | 381 | 52 |
| West Lexington. | 12 | — | 22 | 524 | 111 |
| Muhlenburg. No report | | | | | |
| West Tennessee. No report. | | | | | |
| Orange, | 18 | 6 | 40 | 2126 | 80 |
| Concord, | 16 | 1 | 49 | — | 30 |
| South Carolina, | 9 | 2 | 25 | 628 | — |
| Hopewell. No report. | | | | | |
| Harmony, | 14 | 3 | 24 | 513 | 73 |
| Total, | 469 | 51 | 789 | 37,699 | $6,386 |

The imperfection of these reports may be inferred from the fact that only 215 congregations out of 789 reported the total number of communicants. The same defect is applicable to other items in these statistics.

## 1813.

PHILADELPHIA, *May 20th*, 1813.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and was opened by the Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from the Revelation by John ii. 10, last clause of the verse: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA—The Rev. David Higgins.

PRESBYTERY OF ONONDAGA—The Rev. Joshua Leonard. Messrs. Isaac Beach, and Marcus Smith, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. William Clark, and Rev. Henry Axtell. Mr. John Hall, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Joel Bradley.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., Rev. Jonas Coe, and Rev. David Porter, D. D. Messrs. William M. Bliss, and Nathan Elliott, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Noah M. Wells, and Rev. William Neill, D. D. Messrs. Alexander Kelly and Earl Stimson, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Methuselah Baldwin, Rev. Eliphalet Price, and Rev. Noah Coe. Mr. Reuben Hopkins, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. William Boardman, Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., and Rev. Matthew L. Perrine. Messrs. Zechariah Lewis, and Robert Buchan, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Aaron Woolworth, D. D., and Rev. Bradford Marcy. Mr. James Reeve, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF JERSEY—The Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve, Rev. Aaron Condict, and Rev. Stephen Thompson. Messrs. Benjamin Lamson, Peter A. Johnson, Alexander Semple, and Stephen Hays, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Robert Finley. Messrs. Moses Scott, James Dunham, and David Bishop, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Samuel Blair, D. D., Rev. William Latta, Rev. James P. Wilson, D. D., and Rev. Jacob J. Janeway. Messrs. Robert Smith, John Connelly, Stephen Miller, and Charles Ogden, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. John E. Latta, Rev. Charles Wallace, Rev. William Kerr, and Rev. Samuel Bell. Messrs. Leonard Vandegrift, and John S. Martin, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Robert Cathcart, Rev. David Denny, and Rev. Robert Kennedy. Messrs. William Brown, and Walter Smith, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. Thomas Ledley Birch.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND—The Rev. John B. Patterson.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. William Kennedy. Mr. John Reed, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. William Speer, Rev. James Graham, and Rev. Francis Herron.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. William Woods.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW LANCASTER—The Rev. James Culbertson.

PRESBYTERY OF HARTFORD—The Rev. Robert Semple.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. Elisha Macurdy, Rev. Thomas Marques, and Rev. Matthew Brown.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. Andrew Shannon, and Rev. John B. Hoge. Mr. John Mark, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. Charles H. Kennon.

PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—The Rev. William Calhoun, and Rev. George Bourne.

PRESBYTERY OF WASHINGTON—The Rev. James Gilleland.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST LEXINGTON—The Rev. James Kemper.

PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—The Rev. James Hall, D. D., and Rev. James McRee, D. D.

PRESBYTERY OF HARMONY—The Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., and Rev. Ezra Fisk.

PRESBYTERY OF MIAMI—The Rev. William Robinson.

Of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, the Rev. Abel McEwen, and the Rev. Roswel R. Swan, produced a certificate of their appointment as delegates to this Assembly, and took their seats as members.

Of the General Association of Massachusetts proper, the Rev. Jedediah Morse, D. D., and the Rev. Alban Hyde, D. D., produced a certificate of their appointment as delegates to this Assembly, and took their seats as members.

Of the General Association of New Hampshire, the Rev. Abijah Wines produced a certificate of his appointment as a delegate to this Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

Of the General Convention of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers in the State of Vermont, the Rev. Daniel Haskel produced a certificate of his appointment as a delegate to this Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a Moderator and Temporary Clerk; and the Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart was chosen Temporary Clerk.

Drs. Blair and Miller were appointed a committee to request of the Trustees of the Independent Tabernacle in this city, the use of said Tabernacle for the purpose of holding there the sessions of the Assembly.

The minutes of the last Assembly were in part read.

The committee appointed to wait upon the Trustees of the Independent Tabernacle reported, that they had waited upon them, and that the Trustees, with the greatest cordiality, granted the use of the Tabernacle to the Assembly.

Adjourned to meet at the Tabernacle at 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*9 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met at the Independent Tabernacle, and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Drs. John Woodhull and Joseph Clark, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and Mr. Caleb S. Green, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and Mr. Obadiah Jennings, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Ohio, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The reading of the minutes of the last Assembly was resumed and finished.

The Rev. Drs. McRee, Morse, Flinn, and the Rev. Messrs. Jonas Coe, McEwen, Finley, Herron, and Messrs. Lewis, Martin, Brown, Bliss, and Green, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church immediately after adjournment, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Jonas Coe, Woolworth, and Lewis, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva:

That Drs. Miller and Flinn, and Mr. Martin, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany:

That Messrs. Speer, Leonard, and Vandegrift, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey:

That Drs. Neill and Clark, and Mr. Scott, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia:

That Messrs. Boardman, Finley, and Buchan, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh:

That Dr. Wilson, Messrs. William Latta, and Connelly, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia:

That Messrs. Higgins, William Clark, and John Hall, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky: and

That Dr. Porter, and Messrs. Bradley and Elliott, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas.

*Resolved*, That a free conversation on the state of religion be the order of the day for Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer, and other religious exercises; and that Drs. Wilson, Woodhull, and Robert Smith, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

The committee appointed by last Assembly to dispose of the interest due on moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, reported, that agreeably to their appointment, they met with a committee of said Trustees, and appropriated the said interest, amounting to thirty-three dollars eighty-one cents, to the use of a young man in the senior class, studying with a view to the gospel ministry.

*Resolved*, That the same committee, viz: the Rev. Messrs. David Comfort, and Isaac V. Brown, be continued, and report to the next General Assembly.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and Mr. Potts, were appointed a committee to make extracts from the minutes of this Assembly to be printed.

Dr. Clark, Messrs. Jennings, and Robert Smith, were appointed a committee to make distribution of the Commissioners' Fund, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to revise a report made to that Assembly on the subject of disciplining baptized children, and to have it printed, reported that they had accomplished the object of their appointment, and had taken measures for sending several copies of the report to the different Presbyteries.

The Stated Clerk was directed to have a number of copies of the second volume of the printed extracts bound for the use of the several Synods and Presbyteries.

The Stated Clerk informed the Assembly, that Mr. Ebenezer Hazard had made an index for his volume.

*Resolved*, That fifteen hundred copies of this index be printed, and that the Stated Clerk attend to this business.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to Mr. Hazard for his accomplishment of this important object.

Dr. Flinn, to whom was committed the petition of the last Assembly to the Congress of the United States, on the subject of carrying and opening the mail on the Sabbath, reported that he put the petition into the hands of Mr.

Cheves, a member of the House of Representatives, who afterwards informed him that the prayer of the petition was not granted.

Reports of Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry were called for, and Dr. Clark, Messrs. Jonas Coe, and Bliss, were appointed a committee to prepare a statement, exhibiting a general view of these reports and decisions of the Assembly upon them severally.

A number of extracts from the minutes of the General Convention of Vermont were, by the delegate from that body, presented to the Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Messrs. John McKissick and Joseph McClure, ruling elders from the Presbytery of New Castle, the Rev. Andrew Rawson, of the Presbytery of Onondaga, and the Rev. Levi Parsons, of the Presbytery of Cayuga, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The Synodical and Presbyterial reports were received from all the Synods except that of Pittsburgh; some of the Presbyterial reports, however, of the Presbyteries under the care of the Synod of Pittsburgh were received; and Messrs. William Latta, Wells, and Kerr, were appointed a committee to examine these reports, and read to the Assembly those parts, which the committee may think necessary to be read.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 2d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Robert Finley, one of the delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend a meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire, reported that he attended, and that the next Association is to meet at the house of the Rev. Drury Fairbanks, in Plymouth, on the third Tuesday of September next.

The agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the establishment of a Theological Seminary, and the several Presbyteries being called upon to report the result of their attention to this subject, reports were received from a principal part of the agents, and from all the Presbyteries represented in the Assembly except Onondaga; and Messrs. Boardman, Elliott, and Brown, were appointed a committee to take these reports and examine them, and make a report to the Assembly, distinguishing the amount of the sums subscribed, and the sums paid, and those subscribed and paid this year, from those subscribed and paid last year.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend a meeting of the General Association of Connecticut, reported that they all attended, and that the next Association is to meet at Watertown, Litchfield county, on the third Tuesday in June next.

Mr. John E. Caldwell, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of New York, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read, he took his seat as a member.

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly an overture containing the extracts from the minutes of the Synod of the Carolinas, in relation to their censure passed upon the Presbytery of Harmony, for ordaining *sine titulo,* without consulting a higher judicature.

This overture being read, was committed to Drs. Woodhull, Miller, and Neill, and Messrs. Finley, and Lewis, who were directed to report on the subject on Tuesday morning next; and it was

*Resolved*, That it be the order of the day for Tuesday next.

The Committee also overtured petitions from the Presbyteries of Washington, of Lancaster, and of Miami, praying to be erected into a Synod; and these petitions were committed to Messrs. Speer, Herron, and Marques, who were directed to report on the subject as soon as convenient.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual account as settled and approved by a Committee of the Trustees, which was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Dr. Green, the Rev. James F. Armstrong, of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. Amzi Armstrong, of the Presbytery of Jersey, the Rev. Samuel F. Snowden, of the Presbytery of Oneida, Mr. Samuel Bayard, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and Mr. Ebenezer Finley, from the Presbytery of Baltimore, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The Rev. Amzi Armstrong, one of the delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of Massachusetts proper, reported that he alone attended, (the others being prevented from attending by sickness,) and that the next Association is to meet at the house of the Rev. John Emerson, in Conway, in the county of Franklin, on the fourth Tuesday of June next, at 5 o'clock, P. M.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to receive written and verbal communications on the subject of the state of religion, and the Rev. Drs. Morse, and Green, Messrs. Haskell, Swan, and Amzi Armstrong, were appointed a committee to prepare a connected narrative of the information which may be received on the subject, and lay it before the Assembly, and considerable progress was made in the business.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported, and the book was approved to page 103.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The receiving of communications on the state of religion, which was left unfinished in the morning, was resumed and finished. Communications on the subject were received from all the Presbyteries and Associations represented in the Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and the book was approved to page 294.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva, reported, and the book was approved to page 30.

The Committee of Overtures brought in an overture on the subject of appointing a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, and Drs. Miller, and Hyde, and Mr. Bliss, were appointed a committee to prepare a minute to be adopted on the subject, if they are of opinion that a day of fasting should be appointed by the Assembly.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

*Resolved*, That the Standing Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., for the missionary sermon which, by their appointment, he had preached the preceding evening.

It being the order of the day, the committee appointed to report on the extracts from the minutes of the Synod of the Carolinas, reported, and the report being read, the first resolution was adopted, and the remaining resolutions were recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Dr. Green.

The Synods which manage the missionary business being called on to state whether they had reported on the subject to the Committee of Missions, it was stated that the Synods of Virginia and Pittsburgh had reported.

Agreeably to a standing rule, nominations were made for delegates to attend the General Associations of Connecticut, Massachusetts proper, and New Hampshire, and the General Convention of Vermont.

*Resolved*, That the election for these delegates be the order of the day for this afternoon.

The Committee of Missions appeared in the Assembly, and made their first report, and it was committed to Messrs. Jonas Coe and Perrine, who were directed to select and report to the Assembly those articles which may require the attention of the Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Peter Gordon being present, and being the principal mentioned in their commission, took his seat as a member in the place of Mr. Green who was absent; and Mr. Bishop having resigned his seat, Mr. James Dunham, the alternate mentioned in their commission, being present, took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, an election was held for three delegates to attend the General Association of Connecticut, which is to meet at Watertown, Litchfield county, on the third Tuesday in June next. The ballot being taken, the Rev. Joshua Leonard, the Rev. Ezra Fisk, and the Rev. George S. Woodhull, were declared duly elected to attend the next meeting of the Association of Connecticut.

It being also the order of the day for the afternoon, an election was held for two delegates to attend the meeting of the General Association of Massachusetts proper, to meet at the house of the Rev. John Emerson, in Conway, in the county of Franklin, on the fourth Tuesday of June next, at 5 o'clock, P. M.; and the Rev. Joshua Leonard, and the Rev. Ezra Fisk, were declared duly elected to attend said Association, and the Rev. George S. Woodhull was chosen alternate to whichever of the delegates may fail to attend, if either should fail.

It being also the order for the afternoon, an election was held for two delegates to attend the General Association of New Hampshire, which is to meet at the house of the Rev. Drury Fairbanks, in Plymouth, on the third Tuesday in September next. The ballot being taken, the Rev. William Neill, D. D., and the Rev. Amzi Armstrong, were duly elected to attend the next meeting of said Association.

It being also the order of the afternoon, an election was held for a delegate to attend the General Convention of Vermont, which is to meet at the house of the Rev. John Griswold, in Powlet, on the second Tuesday of September next, at 2 o'clock, P. M., and the Rev. William Neill, D. D., was declared duly elected to attend said Convention, and in case of his failure the Rev. Amzi Armstrong was appointed to attend.

Dr. Clark, and Mr. Finley, were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. George S. Woodhull.

Dr. Blatchford, and Mr. Jonas Coe, were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpit of Dr. Neill; and

Messrs. Condict and Fisher, were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Amzi Armstrong, during their necessary attention to their respective delegations.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish these delegates with copies of the foregoing minutes, which shall serve as their commissions.

*Resolved*, That the delegates be allowed the compensation fixed by a former Assembly.

Dr. Wilson resigned his seat to the Rev. George W. Janvier, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

The committee to which were recommitted the extracts from the minutes of the Synod of the Carolinas, relative to the proceedings of that Synod in the case of an ordination *sine titulo*, by the Presbytery of Harmony, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That they have attended carefully to the said extracts, and although they remark some mistakes into which the Synod have fallen, in representing the facts to which they refer; yet as there can be no doubt that these mistakes have arisen from inadvertency alone, it does not appear expedient farther to notice them. With respect to the general subject to which the extracts refer,

*Resolved*, 1. That on a full view and mature consideration of the subject, the Assembly found that it presented one of those peculiar cases in which different judicatures seem to be at issue on a question of constitutional order, and yet that neither the one nor the other can be justly subject to censure. It appeared to the Assembly that both the Synod of the Carolinas and the Presbytery of Harmony, on the case contemplated, were governed in their proceedings both by a sense of duty, and by a regard to the constitutional regulations which they believed to be obligatory on them; but that there were circumstances attending this case, as it was presented to the view of the Synod on the one hand, and of the Presbytery on the other, which were calculated to lead them severally, and which appeared actually to have led them to that difference of opinion and action, which the Assembly lamented, and the consequences of which they desired to prevent and remove; and the Assembly did therefore direct, that this minute be entered on the records both of the Synod of the Carolinas and of the Presbytery of Harmony; to the intent that it may appear that the Assembly did not consider either of those bodies as censurable for what they had done severally in the business of ordaining ministers of the gospel *sine titulo*. That the Assembly moreover did deeply regret, that the expression of censure by the Synod, and the consequent complaint of grievance by the Presbytery, should have taken place among brethren as the result of their different views of duty and constitutional order. And, finally, while the Assembly explicitly acquitted both parties from blame, in the matter referred to, they recommended it to both to terminate all agitation of the subject which has divided them, with the entrance of this minute on their records severally, agreeably to the direction which has been given.

*Resolved*, 2. That as a considerable and evident diversity of opinion has for a length of time existed among the judicatures and ministers of our communion, on the question, whether Presbyteries can regularly proceed to ordination *sine titulo*, without consulting a higher judicature, and it is hereby expedient for the peace and order of the Church, that this question should be decided, this Assembly therefore repeal the act of the last Assembly, by which a farther attention to this subject was dismissed, and this Assembly do farther direct, that all the Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly, as well those which have heretofore voted on this subject, as those which have not, do send up in writing the expressions of their opinion on the subject to the next General Assembly, in order that there may be a constitutional and final decision on the point in controversy, and that the practice relative thereto may be uniform in all parts of our Church. The rule proposed, and on which an affirmative or negative vote of the Presbyteries is required is in the following words, viz:

'It shall be the duty of Presbyteries, when they think it necessary to ordain a candidate, without a call to a particular pastoral charge, to take the advice of a Synod, or of the General Assembly, before they proceed to such ordination.'"

The committee to which was referred the overture for the appointment of a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"When, in the righteous government of God, he is pleased to visit any people with the tokens of his displeasure, it is the duty of all, and especially of his Church, to acknowledge his holy providence; to humble themselves under his mighty hand; and to implore that grace which they need, both for their deliverance and for the sanctified improvement of his dispensations.

And whereas, in the course of the past year, it has pleased Almighty God to visit our beloved country with the calamity of war, by which many extensive districts within our bounds, have been greatly distressed and desolated, and in the progress of which the moral and spiritual interests of those districts have sustained the most evident and lamentable injury: whereas, there has been, during the same period, an unusual prevalence of wasting pestilence: whereas, while we have much reason to bless the God of all grace for the favourable aspect of our church in general, there is ground to mourn over the spiritual decline, which is too evident within the bounds of some of our Presbyteries: and whereas, we are all chargeable, both in our civil and ecclesiastical capacities, with many sins, of which it is our duty to repent before God: therefore,

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to all the churches under our care, to observe the first Thursday of August next, as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that we then humble ourselves before God; that we confess to him our many sins, with penitent and obedient hearts; and that we beseech him, for Christ's sake, to pardon our national and individual transgressions; to sanctify to us the judgments which he executeth; to restore the blessings of peace to our bleeding country; to inspire our civil rulers with that wisdom which is from above; to preserve and perpetuate our national union, and all our privileges, both civil and religious; and above all, to pour out upon our churches, upon all denominations of Christians, and upon all descriptions of people, the influences of his Holy Spirit, that the religion of Jesus Christ, in its purity and power, may be every where revived; that the interests of order, truth, and righteousness, may every where abound and prevail; and that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty.

*Resolved*, That, if the President of the United States shall, previous to the day above specified, recommend the observance of a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer, different from that which has been assigned, then, and in that case, it is recommended to the churches under our care, to observe the day which may be appointed by the civil government of our country; otherwise to observe the day appointed by the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, That, in order to promote the observance of the day abovementioned in a suitable manner, it be, and it hereby is, recommended to the churches under our care, to abstain from all servile labour and recreations on said day.

*Resolved*, That certified copies of this report be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, to the General Associations of Connecticut and Massachusetts, to the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, now in session in this city, and to the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church."

Dr. Miller, and Mr. Lewis, were appointed a committee to lay an attested copy of this report before the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, now in session in this city, and to request their concurrence in the observance of the day appointed.

The following persons were appointed agents for the ensuing year, to solicit donations for the establishment of the Theological Seminary.

Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Messrs. Jonas Coe, Samuel F. Snowden, Alexander Monteith, Daniel Dana, Eli F. Cooley, Simon Hosack, William Morrison, William Neill, D. D., John Chester.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. Messrs. Jedediah Chapman, Henry Axtell, Dirck C. Lansing, David Higgins, Col. John Linklaen.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, Rev. Messrs. Ashbel Green, D. D., Samuel Miller, D. D., John B. Romeyn, D. D., James Richards, David Comfort, John McNeice, Isaac VanDoren, Gardiner Spring, John Clark, William Boardman, Lathrop Thompson, Samuel Fisher, George S. Woodhull; Messrs. John Mills, and Divie Bethune.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. Messrs. James Muir, D, D., John Glendy, John E. Latta, John B. Slemons, John B. Patterson, Jacob J. Janeway, Jonathan Freeman, James Inglis, D. D., James Magraw; Messrs. Robert Ralston, Thomas Leiper, John McMullin, Christopher Johnson, William McDonald, William Haslett, Francis Markoe, William Mairns.

In addition to his appointment to solicit in general within his district, the Rev. John E. Latta was appointed to solicit donations particularly in Baltimore.

Of the Synod of Virginia, Rev. Messrs. Drury Lacey, John D. Blair, William Williamson, John H. Rice, Samuel B. Wilson, Nash Legrand, James C. Wilson, William Calhoun, Conrad Speece.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. Messrs. Samuel Ralston, James Guthrie, William Speer, James Hughes, John Wright, Johnston Eaton.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. Messrs. Robert G. Wilson, James Blythe, Archibald Cameron, Joshua L. Wilson, James W. Stevenson, Gideon Blackburn.

Of the Synod of the Carolinas, Rev. Messrs. James Hall, D. D., Daniel Brown, Henry Kollock, D. D., Malcolm McNair, John Couser, James W. Thompson, Moses Waddell, D. D., William L. Turner, William McPheeters, John Brown, Andrew Flinn, D. D., J. Elliot, of Medway; Messrs. Dr. Buchan, Hon. William B. Cheves, Major Samuel Robertson, Dr. John Cummings, of Savannah, John Bolton, of do., Thomas Cummings, and John Brownlee, of Charleston.

It was recommended by the Assembly, that the Presbyteries take order severally, for obtaining donations to the Theological fund. It was also recommended by the Assembly, that the several Presbyteries of which the agents are members, take order for the supply of their pulpits during their absence from their charges, in prosecuting the business of their agency.

Dr. Woodhull resigned his seat to the Rev. George S. Woodhull, the alternate mentioned in their commission; and Mr. Bell resigned his seat to the Rev. Andrew K. Russel, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

Mr. Vandegrift had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. Moses Scott, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Columbia, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of the Carolinas, reported that the records were approved to the end of the twenty-fifth term.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the directors of the Theological Seminary reported, and their report being read was committed to Drs. Hall, Porter, and Woolworth, and Messrs. Higgins, Denny, Speer, Kemper, and Shannon, who were directed to report to the Assembly, those parts of the report, which may require their attention.

An extract from the minutes of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary was laid before the Assembly, proposing that some plan be devised to defray the expenses of the members in attending upon the meetings of the Board.

*Resolved*, That this extract be committed to the last mentioned committee.

Extracts from the minutes of the same board were laid before the Assembly, recommending that the Assembly subscribe for forty copies of Vander Hooght's Hebrew Bible, about to be printed by Mr. Horwitz, of Philadelphia; and also stating that an application had been received from Messrs. Whiting and Watson, booksellers, New York, requesting the patronage of the Board to a stereotype edition of the Hebrew Bible, which they propose to publish.

*Resolved*, That these extracts be committed to Drs. Green, Miller, Alexander, Wilson, and Neill, who are directed to report on the subject to the Assembly.

A request from the Presbytery of Hudson to receive Mr. William Rafferty, a licentiate from the Presbytery of Munster, in Ireland, into their connection, was overtured. Mr. Rafferty's credentials and other collateral testimonials being produced and read, the request was granted.

*Resolved*, That it be, and is hereby earnestly recommended to the Presbyteries within the bounds of the General Assembly, that they severally institute an inquiry and make report to the next Assembly, as to the probable number of families destitute of the sacred oracles, and in regard to the number of Bibles that might be advantageously distributed within their respective bounds.

An application from the Synod of the Carolinas, for the division of their Synod, was overtured and read. Whereupon it was

*Resolved*, That the said Synod be divided as follows, viz:

That the Presbyteries of Orange, Concord, and Fayetteville, be constituted a Synod, to be known by the name of the Synod of North Carolina; to meet at Allemance church on the first Thursday of October next; that the Rev. Dr. James Hall, or in case of his absence then the senior member present, open the Synod with a sermon, and preside until a moderator be chosen; and that the Synod meet afterwards on their own adjournments.

That the Presbyteries of South Carolina, Hopewell, and Harmony, be constituted a Synod, to be known by the name of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia; to meet on the first Thursday in November next, at Upper Long Cane church, and afterwards on their own adjournments; that the Rev. Dr. Henry Kollock, or in case of his absence then the senior minister present, preach the opening sermon, and preside until a moderator be elected.

The committee to which was referred the first report of the Committee of Missions, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be instructed to issue warrants for the payment of the following sums, for missionary services, viz:

To the Rev. Messrs. Enoch Whipple, $98.00. Asahel Stone, 98.00. Abiel Jones, 28.33. Oliver Wetmore, 66.66. Calvin Wait, 51.66. Joseph Stevenson, 27.33, Joseph S. Hughes, 66.66. Thomas Cleland, 63.16. Colin McIver, 49.75. Nathan Hall, 86.25. William Paisley, 24.66. John Clark, 28.58. Henry Ford, 32.35. John Gloucester, 66.67. John D. Perkins, 75.59. John McPherrin, 52.90. James Hughes, 41.66. Jedediah Chapman, 33.33. Joshua Johnson, 33.33. Ezekiel Glasgow, 33.33. Eliphalet Price, 11.16. John Coulter, 25.28. Alexander Cook, 94.38; ditto allowance for a horse 50.00. John Alexander, 30.83. Robert Lee, 21.16. Robert Marshall, 51.28 Daniel Loring, 63.98. Andrew Rawson, 33.33. To the Presbytery of Washington, 33.29.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to the above-mentioned missionaries for their faithful services.

The committee appointed to form a connected narrative of the information received on the state of religion, brought in their report, which being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The cause of Zion lies near the heart of every sincere follower of the Redeemer. He deserves not the name of a disciple who cannot join the Psalmist in saying, 'If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning; if I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.' In the prosperity of the Redeemer's kingdom, the honour of God, and the everlasting welfare of the souls of men are involved. That benevolence which distinguishes our religion incessantly utters the prayer, 'Thy kingdom come;' and when the news reaches the truly religious man, from any quarter of the earth, that the interests of the 'truth as it is in Jesus' are advanced, and that the followers of the Redeemer are multiplied, he experiences a joy, similar in kind to that which swells the bosoms of the angels of light when sinners are brought to repentance.

To those who are thus tenderly concerned for the prosperity of Zion, and who are waiting, praying, and striving for the peace of Jerusalem, we have the happiness to state, that though we find many things within our bounds to deplore, yet, on the whole, we have abundant cause to thank God, and take courage. Amidst much coldness, and declension, and iniquity, we discern evident tokens that God has not forgotten to be gracious. In some places within our bounds during the past year, the Spirit has descended like a gentle dew, and in others in copious showers, making the parched heath as a fruitful field.

The state of religion among a people may be judged of with tolerable correctness from that attention which the ordinances of religion and the means of grace receive, and from those exertions and those sacrifices which are made to extend the Redeemer's kingdom. 'By their fruits shall ye know them,' is a rule of judging prescribed by the Saviour himself. We view it then as an evidence that God by the precious influences of his Spirit, is in the midst of our churches, when we learn that there is within our bounds a respectful and general attendance on a preached gospel; that children and youth, and in some places the aged, are instructed by catechizing in the great truths and duties of religion; that missionary, and Bible, and religious tract societies exist, are numerous, and extensively patronized, and are successfully exerting themselves in spreading a knowledge of divine truth; that young men of hopeful piety and of promising talents are taken from those occupations to which their poverty had confined them, and are educated for more extensive usefulness in the church as gospel ministers; that associations of young people are formed for the laudable purpose of sending the gospel to those who enjoy not its stated ministrations; that the heathen in distant lands are remembered with tender solicitude, and contributions are cheerfully and liberally made to send the gospel to them; that praying societies are extensively instituted, and devoutly attended, and a hope is thus warranted that the windows of heaven will be opened, and the richest blessings descend on this guilty world.

The number of churches within our bounds has during the past year considerably increased, and destitute congregations, through the faithfulness of our ministers in their neighbourhood, have been extensively supplied with the administration of gospel ordinances. We hope that those who have thus been favoured, will not forget the solemn obligation which they are under to establish, as speedily as possible, the gospel ministry permanently among themselves. We state with pleasure, that great harmony prevails in our churches, and that ministers and people appear to be walking together in the charity, and faith, and order of the gospel. Infidelity and other ruinous errors, conscious of deformity, seem to court concealment; while truth goes forth in her native loveliness, and meets with extensive approbation.

But we have still more encouraging things than these to make known. In a number of places within our bounds, during the past year, there have been extensive revivals of religion. Scenes resembling those of Pentecost have been witnessed, in which solemnity has pervaded a people, sinners have been brought to inquire with solicitude, and with trembling, what they must do to be saved, and have at length been brought to rejoice in that glorious liberty wherewith Christ makes free. Fresh evidence has been thus afforded of the reality of the religion of Jesus, and of the power and grace of God. We have seen the Ethiopian change his skin, and the leopard his spots, and have been forced to exclaim, in view of such miracles of mercy, This truly is the finger of God. The Presbyteries in which such revivals have principally taken place, are Jersey, Hudson, Onondaga, and Albany; and the places which have been most extensively visited are Homer, Newark, Elizabethtown, and Connecticut Farms.

In many places also, where no special revivals have existed, the cause of religion presents a pleasing aspect, and the Church looks green and flourishing under the gentle dews of divine grace distilling upon it. Numbers are, from time to time, added to the Lord, of such, we trust, as shall be saved. The religious instruction of children has been blessed, and that watchful care which has been exercised over these lambs of the flock, has been often made a mean, by the great Shepherd and Bishop of souls, of bringing them into his fold. A strong incitement has thus been afforded to parental and ministerial fidelity, and the pleasing hope is excited, that a generation shall rise up to praise God when their fathers shall have fallen asleep. We have also seen, in the events of the past year, viewed in connection with their circumstances, fresh and impressive evidence that God is a prayer-hearing God, and that it is generally in answer to the earnest supplications of his people that he appears in his glory to build up Zion.

But while we thus rejoice in the divine goodness, we have reason also to deprecate the divine displeasure. In too many places within our bounds, a lukewarmness and a neglect of religious ordinances prevail, and the vices of profane swearing, drunkenness, and Sabbath-breaking, exist to an alarming degree. In other places things temporal, trifling in their nature, and momentary in their duration, engross the chief attention, to the neglect of those things of whose importance and duration we cannot at present adequately conceive. While the prince of darkness is thus striving to maintain an unhallowed dominion over the souls of men, let those who are clothed with the Christian armour labour, under the direction of the great Captain of their salvation, to deliver them from this cruel bondage, into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

We learn that an awful mortality has prevailed in many places within our bounds, and within the bounds of those sister churches with which we are connected; and we are sorry to be compelled to add, that this dreadful visitation of the Almighty does not seem to have been extensively a mean of producing repentance and reformation. A sleep like that of death must surely have fallen upon those who can thus stand unmoved in their impenitency, while the arrows of death are flying thick around them.

From the General Association of Connecticut we learn, that though there have been fewer revivals of religion within their bounds during the past year, than in some years which have preceded it, yet, on the whole, religion is not in a less prosperous state than it has hitherto been. An entire harmony there prevails among the ministers and churches.

In the county of Litchfield a number of places have been refreshed by an outpouring of the Spirit of God.

In Yale College, appearances, in a religious point of view, are in a high degree hopeful. Many of the youth of that seminary are anxiously inquiring what they must do to be saved.

The souls of all mankind are equally precious, but we cannot but feel that it is a subject of uncommon rejoicing, when, by reviving religion in our most respectable seminaries of learning, God is preparing for an increased number of able and faithful ministers of the gospel.

Missionary, and Bible, and religious Tract societies are liberally supported, and the people of this State have extensively contributed to the missions in the east. They are also, with their brethren in Massachusetts, making great exertions to arrest the progress of intemperance, that angel of darkness and of death, who, with a giant step, has passed through our land, and slain his thousands and his tens of thousands, and who is still continuing his awful work of destruction.

From the General Association of Massachusetts proper we have received encouraging intelligence. Religion there not only maintains its ground but gains new conquests. The cause of error, to say the least, is stationary; while the cause of truth and righteousness is steadily advancing. In some parts of that State pleasing revivals of religion have taken place. A great and general, and promising effort is making to suppress intemperance and its kindred vices. In no other part of our country has such liberality been manifested, in founding and supporting benevolent religious institutions, having for their object the education of young men for the gospel ministry, without expense to themselves; the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures in our own language, and the preaching of the gospel in destitute parts of our own country; the translation of the Scriptures into the languages of the east, and the diffusion of the light of divine truth among those who are sitting in the region and shadow of death. When Christians, in other sections of our country, are informed that the inhabitants of Massachusetts have contributed, during the six years last past, for the above purposes, a sum probably not less than half a million of dollars, will they not be provoked to go and do likewise?

From the General Association of New Hampshire we learn, that though many of their towns are destitute of churches, and of the regular administration of gospel institutions, and there vice lamentably prevails, yet where religious ordinances are established, they are not enjoyed in vain. Ministers are faithful and zealous in inculcating truth and in opposing error, and are labouring to strengthen the hands and encourage the hearts of each other in their great and good work, and the churches, walking in the faith and order of the gospel, are edified and increased. The serious people of this State are combining their efforts with their brethren in Massachusetts and Connecticut to suppress the growing evil of intemperance.

From the General Convention of Vermont we learn, that religion is, on the whole, progressing among them; that some new churches have during the past year been formed, and that numbers of those which have in time past been destitute of the stated ordinances of religion, have settled gospel ministers among them. Benevolent institutions for the promotion of the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom are increasing in number, and are respectably supported. The ministers and churches are happily united in the faith and order of the gospel. Revivals of religion have existed in several places; and in Middlebury College, an unusual degree of seriousness has prevailed.

On the whole, the Assembly think that religion has lost nothing, but on the contrary has gained much, during the past year; and we would record the fact to the honour of Him whose is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.

We exult in this consideration, though the nations of the world are convulsed, and our own beloved country is at length involved in the wide spread flame of war, and is solemnly called to humble itself before a righteous and holy God, while it feels the affliction of one of his sorest judgments. But recollecting, notwithstanding, that it was long since the divine prediction that Jerusalem should be built *in troublous times*, and observing that in our day, amidst all the falls and revolutions of empire which have afflicted and changed the face of the world, greater efforts have been made to extend the Redeemer's kingdom, and with greater success, than for many centuries before; we even derive encouragement from circumstances and events which, viewed in themselves, seem hostile to Zion, but which in the hand of her Almighty King, and to demonstrate that her cause is his own, are overruled for her prosperity and triumph.

The prospect of victory animates the soldier to daring exploits; and surely a heroic fortitude becomes every soldier of the cross, when the assurance is given in the word of God, and when this assurance is confirmed by the dispensations of divine providence, that his 'labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.' The events of the past year admonish and encourage us to be 'steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.'

Glorious things are spoken of Zion, the city of our God. Her boundaries must be enlarged until they shall embrace the whole family of man. And we behold in the events which are now taking place, comfortable evidence that the 'night is far spent, and that the day is at hand' A noble spirit animates the Protestant world to spread the triumphs of the cross; and in the exertions which are now making, and which have recently been made, and in the success which has crowned them, we think we perceive the dawning of that day when the great Sun of Righteousness shall arise on all the world with healing under his wings.

But the prince of darkness will not be dispossessed of his dominion without a struggle. It is to be expected, that before the millennial glory shall irradiate the earth, he will muster his hosts unto battle, and that he will dispute for his territory at every step with the champions of the cross. The circumstances of the church and of the world demand great sacrifices from Christians, and afford every encouragement to make them.

Let all then who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and who are waiting for the consolation of Israel, being strong in their Lord alone, rise in the majesty of their strength, and resolve, (and let their piety, and their prayers, and their exertions, testify to the sincerity of their resolution,) that 'for Zion's sake they will not hold their peace, and for Jerusalem's sake they will not rest until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.'"

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk have printed, as soon as possible, fifteen hundred copies of the narrative of the state of religion, to be forwarded to the different congregations; and five hundred copies of the resolutions relative to a day of fasting and prayer in a letter form.

A number of copies of extracts from the minutes of the Associations of Connecticut and New Hampshire, were presented to the Assembly.

The Rev. Elisha McCurdy informed the Assembly, that he had been entrusted with $105.20½, by the Rev. Michael Law, agent to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, accompanied by the following notice, viz:

*Monteurs, April 28th*, 1813.

"The design of the subscribers in contributing the money, accompanying this note, was to aid in educating poor children, furnishing them with the Scriptures, and for other necessary purposes, as the General Assembly may in their wisdom see fit. Signed, MICHAEL LAW."

As the Assembly have no fund appropriated to the object mentioned in the above note, and as the Assembly deem it a duty to pay strict regard to the will of contributors to charitable purposes; therefore,

*Resolved*, 1. That said money be deposited with the Treasurer of the General Assembly, till the will of the donors be known, as to the object to which they wish the money to be appropriated.

2. That Mr. McCurdy be requested to present a copy of these resolutions to Mr. Law, that a definite answer may be forwarded to the next Assembly to this question, viz: "To which of the funds of the Assembly do the donors wish the above moneys to be applied?"

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The committee to which the report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary was referred, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, 1. That the report of the Directors be accepted, and that the Assembly highly approve the fidelity and zeal with which they have hitherto performed the trust reposed in them.

2. That it be, and it hereby is recommended by the Assembly to their members to endeavour to promote the sale and circulation of the discourses delivered at the inauguration of the professor in the Theological Seminary.

3. That the Assembly enjoin on the Board of Directors to recommend a

specific number of the theological students to the Trustees of the College, as candidates for the aid stipulated in the last article of the agreement entered into between them and the Assembly.

4. That the collections of the Second and Third Presbyterian churches in Philadelphia, be appropriated by the Directors according to the will of the donors, for the reduction of the price of the board of the students.

5. That the Assembly proceed agreeably to the constitutional rule on the subject, to fill up the vacancies in the Board of Directors, mentioned in their report."

*Resolved*, That the whole of the report of the Board of Directors be printed with the extracts of the minutes which are to be printed, and that the original manuscript be put upon the files of the Assembly.

Agreeably to a standing rule, nominations were made for directors to supply the vacancies in the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary.

*Resolved*, That the election of directors be the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, That an additional professor in the Theological Seminary be chosen, and that the election be the order of the day for Friday morning.

Special prayer was made imploring direction in the choice.

*Resolved*, That three hundred dollars be placed at the disposal of the Board of Directors, to be appropriated to the assistance of the students in the Theological Seminary, as the directors may deem proper.

Mr. Hopkins had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last meeting were read.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to the election of three directors of the Theological Seminary. The ballots being taken, they were committed to Dr. Neill and Mr. Bayard, who were directed to read them, and report to the Assembly the number of votes given to the several candidates.

It being announced to the Assembly, that another seat in the Board of Directors had been vacated by the resignation of Col. Rutgers, nominations were made for a director to fill the vacancy; and it was

*Resolved*, That the election be the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed to count the votes given for Directors of the Theological Seminary reported, and from their report it appeared that the Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., the Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, and the Rev. John E. Latta, were chosen, and they were therefore declared duly elected as Directors of the Theological Seminary.

*Resolved*, That the Directors of the Theological Seminary resident at a remote distance from the place where the Board may in future be noticed to meet, have their travelling expenses defrayed from the funds appropriated to the use of said Seminary, provided that the said allowance shall in no case exceed two dollars for every forty miles, and provided this allowance be not considered as extending to any members of the said Board residing in the cities of New York and Philadelphia, or intermediately in the state of New Jersey.

The committee to which the petitions from the Presbyteries of New Lancaster, Washington, and Miami, were referred, reported, and their report being read, and the subject discussed at considerable length, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

"That although their knowledge of the circumstances of those Presbyteries, and of the vast extent of the bounds of the Synod of Kentucky, and their apprehensions of the interests and conveniences of the churches in that region, would strongly recommend that the prayers of the petitioners be granted; yet as the Synod of Kentucky is acknowledged by the petitioners to have decided against their request, and as this Assembly do not possess any official information from said Synod on this subject, the Assembly in present circumstances do not feel themselves at liberty to make an immediate division of the Synod; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly recommend to the Synod of Kentucky to reconsider their proceedings on this case, and if consistent with their views of the interests of the churches within their bounds, to take, at their next meeting, the order necessary to open the way for a division of said Synod by the General Assembly, or otherwise to exhibit to the next Assembly their reasons against the division."

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk furnish the Moderator of the Synod of Kentucky with an attested copy of the minutes on this subject.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky reported, that the records were not forwarded, and therefore the committee were discharged from any farther attention to the business.

The subject of locating the Theological Seminary having been postponed yesterday, was called up this morning, and after a full discussion of the subject, the following resolution was adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That the permanent location of the Theological Seminary be in the borough of Princeton, New Jersey, in conformity with the agreement with the Trustees of the College, signed at Princeton, June 26th, 1811, and ratified by the General Assembly at their sessions in May, 1812.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Convention of Vermont, and the General Association of New Hampshire, reported, that he attended the former, but was unable to attend the latter.

The Committee of Missions made their second report, which being read and amended, it was

*Resolved*, That the following missionaries be appointed, and that the following Presbyteries be authorized to employ missionaries, on missionary ground within their respective bounds.

1. The Rev. Asahel Stone for three months, in the north-eastern part of New York, along Lake Champlain.
2. The Presbytery of Columbia to employ a missionary for two months.
3. The Presbytery of Geneva to employ a missionary for two months.
4. The Rev. Jedediah Chapman for three months in the Genessee country, at discretion.
5. The Rev. Oliver Wetmore for two months, within the limits of the Oneida Presbytery.
6. The Rev. Oliver Ayer for one month, in the Holland purchase.
7. The Rev. Joshua Johnson for two months, on missionary ground within the limits of the Presbytery of Onondaga, and its vicinity; and one month on the great bend of the Susquehanna, and its vicinity.
8. The Rev. Andrew Rawson for one month, in the counties of Madison

and Onondaga, State of New York; and two months in the Holland purchase.

9. The Presbytery of Cayuga to employ a missionary, or missionaries, for four months, within their limits and vicinity.

10. Mr. Ezekiel Glasgow for one month, from Beavertown to Steubenville.

11. The Rev. Eliphalet Price for one month, in Dutchess county, State of New York.

12. Mr. Robert F. N. Smith for six weeks, in Dutchess county; and three months in Accomack and Northampton counties, Virginia.

13. The Presbytery of Hudson to direct a mission for three months, on missionary ground within their limits; and to divide the time between the misssionaries as they may judge most conducive to the interest of the mission.

14. The Rev. Isaac Lewis for three months, at discretion, in the county of West Chester, State of New York.

15. The Presbytery of Jersey to employ a missionary for three months.

16. The Presbytery of New Brunswick to employ a missionary, or missionaries, for three months.

17. The Rev. John Gloucester for three months, to the blacks in Philadelphia.

18. The Rev. David Elliot for one month, in the extreme parts of the Carlisle Presbytery, beginning at Williamsport and proceeding up the river Potomac.

19. The Presbytery of Carlisle to employ two missionaries for one month each, in the extreme parts of that Presbytery, and of Huntingdon Presbytery.

20. The Rev. Thomas Hunt for three months, part in Tyger's Valley and the adjacent country, and part near to Wooster and Mansfield, in the State of Ohio, and one month in the suburbs of Pittsburgh.

21. The Rev. Elisha McCurdy for one month, at discretion.

22. The Rev. Thomas Marques for one month, at discretion.

23. The Rev. Alexander Cook for three months, one half of the time to be spent within the limits of the Presbyteries of Hartford and Lancaster, and the other half on the Monongahela, from about eighty or ninety miles above Pittsburgh.

24. The Rev. Thomas Moore for three months, along the Allegheny river, towards the Holland purchase.

25. The Rev. Cyrus Riggs for two months, within the limits of the Presbytery of Erie.

26. The Presbytery of Hartford to employ a missionary for two months, within their bounds.

27. The Rev. James Hughes for four months, in the country round Urbana, State of Ohio, at discretion.

28. The Rev. John Boyd for six weecks, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Washington.

29. The Presbytery of Washington to employ a missionary for three months.

30. The Rev. Joseph Stevenson for one month, on the head waters of Grave Creek, Ten Mile, and Wheeling.

31. The Rev. Joseph S. Hughes for six weeks, on the waters of Scioto, Bigbelly, Allum, and Whitestone.

32. The Rev. Stephen Bovelle one month, in the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon.

33. The Rev. James McGready for three months, within the limits of Muhlenburg Presbytery.

34. Mr. John R. Moreland for three months, in the counties of Knox, and

Rockcastle, Kentucky, and to continue his route through the back parts of those counties adjoining the line that divides Kentucky and East Tennessee.

35. The Rev. Joseph D. How for two months, in the lower part of Kentucky and West Tennessee.

36. The Rev. William Robinson for two months, on the Miami and Whitewater.

37. The Presbytery of West Lexington to employ a missionary for three months, in the counties of Gallatin, Boone, Pendleton, Harrison, Nicholas, and Bath.

38. Mr. Samuel Doake for six weeks, commencing his route at Fincastle, and proceeding thence on missionary ground to Grenville, East Tennessee.

39. Mr. William McDowell for six months, between Washington and St. Marys.

40. The Rev. William Paisley for six weeks, in the eastern parts of North Carolina.

41. Mr. Robert Tate for two months, in the eastern parts of North Carolina.

42. The Rev. Nathan Hall for three months, in the bounds of the Transylvania Presbytery.

43. The Presbytery of Northumberland to employ a missionary for two months.

44. The Presbytery of Redstone to employ a missionary for three months, within their bounds.

45. The Rev. James Kemper for three weeks, in Stafford, Fauquier, Culpepper, and Madison counties, in the Northern Neck, Virginia.

46. The Presbytery of Concord to employ a missionary for two months, within their bounds.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be authorized to employ as many additional missionaries as the funds will bear.

*Resolved*, That the salary of the missionaries be forty dollars per month.

A certified copy of an extract from the minutes of the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, stating that the Synod concurred in the appointment of the day of fasting, was handed to the Clerk and read.

It was stated to the Assembly by Dr. Green, in behalf of himself and Ebenezer Hazard, Esq., that from a variety of circumstances they find it impracticable to go on with the History of the Presbyterian Church, which they were appointed to write, by an act of the General Assembly passed in the year 1804, and in the writing of which they have made considerable progress, and for its continuance have in their hands many materials. It was, at the same time, requested by these gentlemen, that the Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., might, if it should seem good to the Assembly, be appointed to receive from them all the papers which they possess relative to the history in question, and that he be authorized and requested to complete the same. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That all the papers relative to the history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in the hands of Dr. Green and Mr. Hazard, be by them deposited with Dr. Miller, and that he be appointed and directed to continue and complete said history; and that the arrangement in regard to the copy right of this history, which right has heretofore been assured to Dr. Green and Mr. Hazard, be settled between them and Dr. Miller, as shall be mutually satisfactory to the parties severally.

*Resolved*, That no election for Trustees be held this year.

Dr. McRee, Messrs. Hays, Gildersleeve, Finley, and Wallace, had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 28th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the reports of the agents, appointed to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary reported, and their report being read, was accepted, and is as follows, viz :

*May*, 1812.

The Rev. Messrs. Morrison had subscribed $60.00. Jonas Coe, 435.00. William Neill, D. D., 2140.00. Philip Milledoler, D. D., 168.75. John B. Romeyn, D. D., 2060.00. Ashbel Green, D. D., 1635.00. James Hall, D. D., 1100.00. William Speer, 1150.00. James Hughes, 795.00. John E. Latta, 1300.00. Malcolm McNair, 1000.00. Samuel Miller, D. D., 1800.00. Amount of sums subscribed in 1812, $13,643.85.

*May*, 1813.

The Rev. Messrs. William Neil, D. D., had subscribed $497.00. Samuel Miller, D. D., of collections 478.78. David Higgins had received subscriptions 10.00. Alexander Monteith had received subscriptions 154.00. Daniel Dana, by collections 10.35. Ditto by Mrs. M. C., of Newburyport, 65.00. Amount of sums subscribed in 1813, $1215.13. Whole amount subscribed $14,858.98.

Your committee observe, that in the above sums are included not merely the sums subscribed, but also the sums received by collections; and also the donation from the lady of Newburyport, conceiving they were properly included in the subject referred to them; but the committee have omitted to include the legacies, which were mentioned in a former report.

And the committee farther report that the amount of the sums paid are as follows, viz :

*May*, 1812.

The Rev. Messrs. Morrison, had collected and paid $60.00. Jonas Coe, 370.00. William Neill, D. D., 1375.00. John B. Romeyn, D. D., 1596.00. Philip Milledoler, D. D., 68.75. Ashbel Green, D. D., 500.00. James Hall, D. D., 273.00. William Speer, 241.00. James Hughes, 200.00. John E. Latta, 1029.35. Samuel Miller, D. D., 100.00. Total $5813.23.

*May*, 1813.

The Rev. Messrs. William Neill, D. D., $1205,00. James Hall, D. D., $599.00—6.00=593. Samuel Miller, D. D., 478.78. William Speer, 696.35. David Higgins, 10.00. Alexander Monteith, 52.00. Daniel Dana, 10.35. Mrs. M. C., Newburyport, 65.00. Presbytery of Washington 6.00. Samuel Ralston, 28.00. John E. Latta, 115.00. Total $3259.48. Whole amount collected, $9072.91.

On the above your committee would barely remark, that they have made the statement with as much accuracy as is in their power; the reports of the agents not being as explicit in many cases as they could have wished, and would only further remark, that they have considered all the sums included in the reports, and stated to be *ready to be paid*, as being actually paid to the Treasurer.

In ascertaining the amount of the sums subscribed and paid this year, from those subscribed and paid the last year, your committee beg liberty to report, that they cannot make the account more explicit than is already done by a reference to the dates in which the transactions took place in the foregoing statement, and that a repetition would, in their opinion, rather tend to embarrass than illustrate the account.

*Resolved*, That the professor to be chosen this morning, be the Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government, and that his salary be eighteen hundred dollars per annum, and the use of a house.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the Assembly proceeded to the election of a Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government in the Theological Seminary; and the ballots being taken and counted, the Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., was declared duly elected; and Drs. Hall and Green were appointed a committee to wait upon Dr. Miller and inform him of his appointment.

It being also the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to the election of a Director of the Theological Seminary; and the ballots being taken, were committed to Dr. Neill and Mr. Bayard, who were directed to report to the Assembly the number of votes taken for the several candidates.

This committee reported, and the report being read, it appeared that Mr. Robert Lenox was chosen, and he was therefore declared duly elected a Director of the Theological Seminary.

Mr. Jennings had leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly, under whose care the funds of the Theological Seminary are placed, pay out of said funds, upon the order of the Directors, the sum of four thousand dollars, which, with eleven hundred dollars of the sum made subject to their order last year, makes five thousand one hundred dollars.

Mr. Bayard resigned his seat to Mr. Francis D. Janvier, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

The committee to which the Synodical and Presbyterial reports were referred, brought in their report, which being read, was accepted, and the Stated Clerk was directed to have the compendious view which the committee had prepared, transcribed into the book prepared for the purpose.

The committee appointed to consider the recommendation of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, respecting proposed editions of the Hebrew Bible, reported the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the President of the Board of Directors be authorized for and in behalf of the Assembly, to subscribe for forty copies of the Bible without points, to be published in Philadelphia; and for the same number of copies of the Bible with points, to be published in New York, provided one copy additional be allowed by each for every two copies subscribed for.

The following persons were chosen and appointed to serve as a Standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia and its vicinity, Rev. Drs. Blair, Green, Alexander, and Wilson; Rev. Messrs. Janeway, and Potts; Messrs. Boudinot, Hazard, Connelly, Haslett, and Robert Smith.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. David Higgins.

Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Jonas Coe.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, Rev. Dr. Joseph Clark.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. Robert Cathcart.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. James Hughes.

Of the Synod of Virginia, Rev. John H. Rice.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe.

Of the Synod of the Carolinas, Rev. Dr. James Hall.

The committee appointed to report to the Assembly the result of the attention which the Presbyteries severally had paid to the subject of educating poor and pious young men for the gospel ministry, as appeared from the votes of the Assembly, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

From the information laid before the Assembly, it appeared that only ten Presbyteries, viz: Londonderry, Geneva, Columbia, Hudson, New York, Jersey, Northumberland, New Castle, Huntingdon, and Miami, have this year made regular reports on the subject. Informal statements have been made by the commissioners from the Presbyteries of Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Albany, Long Island, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, Carlisle, Baltimore, Redstone, Lancaster, Winchester, Hanover, Lexington, West Lexington, Concord, and Harmony. No reports on the subject, nor information in any way, has been laid before the present Assembly from the Presbyteries of Hopewell, Union, South Carolina, Georgia, Transylvania, and Abingdon.

From the reports and statements made as above, it appeared that twenty-seven young men are now receiving education for the ministry, selected and supported by the following Presbyteries, viz: by the Presbytery of Oneida, one; Columbia, two; Onondaga, one; Albany, one; Hudson, one; New York, four; Jersey, five; New Brunswick, two; Philadelphia, three; New Castle, one; Baltimore, one; Ohio, two; Winchester, one; and Hanover, two.

The other Presbyteries, from which information has been received through their commissioners, have offered such reasons for their not having attended to this subject, as the Assembly have deemed it proper to sustain.

The Assembly exceedingly regret to learn from the reports and statements made this year, that so few of the Presbyteries have as yet prosecuted with effect, the important business of selecting and educating poor and pious youth of promising talents, for the gospel ministry, especially when the demand for able and faithful ministers is so pressing, and constantly increasing throughout this great and growing country.

And, whereas, there is a great deficiency in regular and authentic reports from several Presbyteries on this subject, and whereas it appeared from statements made by members present, that some of the Presbyteries had not raised any collections, because they had no immediate object to apply them to: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That all the Presbyteries be careful to transmit, for the future, written and authenticated reports on this subject to the Assembly; and that, where circumstances will permit, they annually raise funds for this important purpose, as well as diligently seek for suitable characters for their appropriation.

Ordered, That the names of the committee whose business it is to certify the standing of preachers who travel without the bounds of the General Assembly, be every year published in the printed extracts.

Ordered, That the copies of the appointment of the day of fasting, which are to be forwarded to the President and Congress, be signed by the Moderator, and attested by the Permanent Clerk.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, and the book was approved to page 442.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Committee on the Commissioners' Fund reported, and their report being read was adopted, viz:

"That moneys have been paid into the Treasury for this fund as follows, viz:

By the Presbytery of Onondaga, $46.42. Geneva, 54.23. Cayuga, 29.00. Oneida, 51.08. Albany, 117.00. Columbia, 71.47. Long Island, 60.56. Hudson, 87.69. New York, 308.96. Jersey, 153.34. New Brunswick, 89.16. Philadelphia, 172.53. New Castle, 69.90. Baltimore, 20.00. Carlisle, 100.00. Huntingdon, 38.00. Northumberland, 14.00. Redstone, 85.45. Ohio, 77.51. Erie, 26.12. Hartford, 39.08. Lancaster, 41.25. Washington, 76.06. Miami, 53.61. Concord, 32.00. Harmony, 58.00.

That these sums, with the balance of $8.76., of the last year, make an amount of $1981.18, which affords an allowance of one dollar and sixty-eight cents for every thirty miles in coming to and returning from the Assembly, for those commissioners who have given the Committee an account of their mileage.

On this average there will be due to Rev. William Clark, $34.72. Rev. Joshua Leonard, 40.32. Rev. David Higgins, 33.60. Rev. Henry Axtell, 36.96. Rev. Andrew Rawson, 40.32. Rev. Levi Parsons, 40.32. Mr. John Hall, 36.96. Mr. Isaac Beech, 40.32. Mr. Marcus Smith, 40.32. Rev. Joel Bradley, 40.32. Rev. Samuel F. Snowden, 40.32. Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., 29.56. Rev. Jonas Coe, 29.23. Rev. David Porter, D. D., 24.64 Mr. William M. Bliss, 29.23. Mr. Nathan Elliot, 24.64. Mr. Moses Scott, 29.68. Rev. William Neill, D. D., 28.00. Rev. Noah M. Wells, 31.36. Mr. Andrew Kelly, 29.68. Mr. Earl Stimson, 31.36. Rev. Methuselah Baldwin, 15.34. Rev. Eliphalet Price, 17.92. Rev. Noah Coe, 14.56. Mr. Reuben Hopkins, 14.56. Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., 10.00. Rev. William Boardman, 11.00. Rev. Matthew L. Perrine, 10.00. Mr. Zechariah Lewis, 10.00. Mr. Robert Buchan, 10.00. Rev. Aaron Woolworth, D. D., 22.40. Mr. James Reeve, 21.28. Rev. Bradford Marcy, 16.80. Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve, 9.30. Rev. Aaron Condict, 10.12. Rev. Stephen Thompson, 8.74. Mr. Benjamin Lamson, 11.31. Mr. Peter A. Johnson, 9.52. Mr. Alexander Semple, 7.50. Mr. Stephen Hays, 8.85. Rev. Amzi Armstrong, 8.40. Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., 6.72. Rev. Joseph Clark, D. D., 6.16. Rev. Robert Finley, 7.84. Mr. Moses Scott, 6.16. Mr. James Dunham, 6.28. Mr. Caleb S. Green, 4.00. Rev. James F. Armstrong, 3.36. Mr. Stephen Miller, 5.06. Rev. John E. Latta, 4.14. Rev. Charles Wallace, 16.80. Rev. William Kerr, 7.84. Rev. Samuel Bell, 4.48. Mr. Leonard Vandegrift, 5.38. Mr. John L. Martin, 17.92. Rev. Robert Cathcart, 10.12. Rev. David Denny, 16.80. Rev. Robert Kennedy, 17.92. Mr. William Brown, 16.80. Rev. John B. Patterson, 14.56. Rev. William Kennedy, 18.48. Mr. John Reed, 19.04. Rev. William Speer, 29.46. Rev. James Graham, 32.14. Rev. Francis Herron, 33.60. Rev. William Woods, 40.32. Rev. James Culberston, 47.71. Rev. Robert Semple, 40.32. Rev. Elisha McCurdy, 35.84. Rev. Thomas Marques, 35.84. Rev. Matthew Brown, 35.84. Rev. James Gilleland, 64.96. Rev. James Kemper, 68.43. Rev. James Hall, D. D., 63.84. Rev. James McRee, D. D., 62.72. Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., 78.40. Rev. Ezra Fisk, 39.20. Rev. William Robinson, 65.52. Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., 4.48. Amount, $1953.94.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue warrants for the payment of the foregoing sums, as above specified.

*Resolved*, That five copies of the report published on the subject of disciplining baptized children be allowed to each Presbytery, and that one copy be given to each member of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany reported, and the book was approved to page 12.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be directed to pay into the Widows' Fund four hundred dollars of the money belonging to the Theological Seminary, as a deposit in favour of the Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government.

A Statement of the situation of the Widows' Fund was read by the Secretary of the Corporation, and it was

*Resolved*, By the Assembly that the statement be published with the extracts which are to be printed.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Assembly be presented to the members of the Corporation of the Widows' Fund, for their very satisfactory statement on this interesting subject.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to the Trustees of the Independent Tabernacle, for the use of their church.

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain if any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was determined that none be reported to the Presbyteries this year, as delinquents in the above case.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of thirty-two dollars and eighty-seven and a half cents to Joseph Jacobs, for eight days' service rendered the Assembly, and for articles furnished for their use.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk, agreeably to the rate fixed by a former Assembly; and for stationery furnished by him for the use of the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, the third Thursday in May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator therefore dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed by the constitution of the Church. Concluded with prayer.

No data were found among the papers of the Assembly from which to construct a statistical summary for this year.

## 1814.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 19*th*, 1814.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment in the Second Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 10 o'clock, A. M.; (the First Presbyterian Church having been, owing to injury sustained by fire, rendered unfit for their accommodation,) and was opened by the Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., with a sermon from Daniel xii. 3: "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever."

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA—The Rev. Royall Phelps. Mr. John Stoyell, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ONONDAGA—The Rev. Jabez Chadwick.

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. Charles Mosher, and Rev. Clement Hickman.

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. John Frost.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., Rev. John Chester, Rev. Nathaniel S. Prime. Messrs. Gordon Corning, and Orrin Day, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDONDERRY—The Rev. Daniel Dana.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. William Neill, D. D., Rev. Thomas Holliday. Mr. John Chamberlain, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Charles Cummins, Rev. John Johnston, and Rev. Ebenezer Grant. Messrs. James J. Ostrom and Jacob Linderman, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Ezra S. Ely, and Rev. Gardiner Spring. Messrs. Robert Lenox, and William Whitlock, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF JERSEY—The Rev. Asa Hillyer, Rev. Gershom Williams, Rev. James Richards, and Rev. Samuel Fisher. Messrs. Israel Crane, David Magie, and Benjamin Lamson, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. John Woodhull, D. D. Rev. David Comfort, and Rev. Joseph Campbell. Messrs. John Pool, and John Skillman, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Rev. James P. Wilson, D. D., Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, Rev. William Latta, and Rev. Robert B. Belville, Messrs. Robert Smith, Edward Lummis, and John McMullin, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. John Burton, Rev. James Magraw, and Rev. Robert Graham. Messrs. Robert Evans, John G. Park, and James Ralston, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. John McKnight, D. D., Rev. John Linn, Rev. David Denny, and Rev. John Moody. Mr. Edward O. Hall, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. James Muir, D. D. and Rev. James Inglis, D. D. Messrs. Christopher Johnston, and Elias B. Caldwell, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND—The Rev. Asa Dunham.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. John Coulter, and Rev. John Linn.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. Francis Herron, and Rev. William Johnston. Mr. James Clow, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. Robert Johnston.

PRESBYTERY OF LANCASTER—The Rev. James Robinson.

PRESBYTERY OF HARTFORD—The Rev. Clement Vallandigham.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. Andrew Gwin.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. John Matthews.

PRESBYTERY OF MUHLENBURG—The Rev. William Dickey.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST TENNESSEE—The Rev. Gideon Blackburn.

FIRST PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—The Rev. Thomas D. Baird.

PRESBYTERY OF WASHINGTON—The Rev. John Boyd.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—The Rev. Robert H. Chapman.

PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—The Rev. John Smith, and Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley.

PRESBYTERY OF HARMONY—The Rev. Andrew W. Leland.

PRESBYTERY OF MIAMI—The Rev. Matthew G. Wallace.

The following delegates from different Associations connected with this Assembly, also attended and having produced certificates of their appointment, they took their seats as members, viz :

Of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, the Rev. Lyman Beecher.

Of the General Association of Massachusetts proper, the Rev. Edward D. Griffin, D. D., and Rev. Ebenezer Fitch, D. D.

Of the General Convention of Vermont, the Rev. Henry Davis, D. D.

The Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator and Temporary Clerk; and the Rev. James Inglis, D. D., was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart was elected Temporary Clerk.

The Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., of the Presbytery of Columbia, having left his commission by the way, but the clerk of the Presbytery certifying that Dr. Blatchford had been duly commissioned, he was received as a member, and took his seat accordingly.

The Rev. John Lyle of the Presbytery of West Lexington, having failed to receive his commission, which was to have been forwarded by mail, but a member of the Assembly stating that he had heard a member of the Presbytery of West Lexington conversing with Mr. Lyle on the subject of forwarding his commission, Mr. Lyle was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. Drs. Woodhull and Fitch, and the Rev. Messrs. Chester, Mosher, William Latta, Herron, Matthews, Blackburn, Leland, Chapman, and Messrs. Lenox, Christopher, Johnston, Robert Smith, Clow, and Evans, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

The following answer from Mr. Law, in relation to moneys which had been forwarded to the Assembly, was received, viz: that two-thirds of the money be appropriated to missionary purposes or the Missionary Fund; and the remaining one-third to the Education Fund.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly appropriate the moneys accordingly.

Agreed, that a free conversation on the state of religion be the order of the day for Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening, in the First Presbyterian Church in this city, in special prayer and other religious exercises; and that Drs. McKnight, Wilson, and Neill, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D. of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. Messrs. James Galbraith, and William Swan, of the Presbytery of Redstone, the Rev. John Smith, of the Presbytery of Oneida, the Rev. James Hughes, of the Presbytery of Ohio, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Hillyer, Comfort, and Crane, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Linn, Magraw, and Caldwell, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Hughes, Leland, and Robert Smith, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Herron, Mosher, and Day, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Chester, Williams, and Linderman, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Cummins, Spring, and Skillman, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

*Resolved*, That Dr. McKnight, Messrs. Richards, and Lamson, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Ely, Dana, and Chamberlain, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina.

*Resolved*, That Dr. Muir, Messrs. Moody, and Lenox, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia.

The Stated Clerk reported that, agreeably to the order of a former Assembly, he has provided a number of bound copies of a second volume of the printed extracts, and it was

*Resolved*, That a copy of said volume be furnished to each of the Presbyteries and Synods within the bounds of the Assembly, to each of the Associations connected with the Assembly, and that a copy be presented to the Board of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, and one also to the Stated Clerk of the Assembly.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly, to dispose of the interest due on moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, reported, that agreeably to their appointment they met with a committee of said Trustees, and appropriated the said interest, amounting to $33.81, to the use of a young man in the senior class, studying with a view to the gospel ministry.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. Isaac V. Brown, and William C. Schenck, be a committee to dispose of the aforesaid interest for the ensuing year, and report on the subject to the next Assembly.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and Mr. Potts, were appointed a committee to make extracts from the minutes of this Assembly to be printed.

The several Presbyteries being called upon, reported the sums they had severally collected for the Commissioners' Fund, and Dr. Neill, and Mr. Christopher Johnston, were appointed a committee to make a distribution of said sums, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

The Presbyteries being called upon to state whether they had received severally the quota of the copies of a pamphlet, published on the subject of disciplining baptized youth, assigned them by the last Assembly, and it being ascertained that several had not received their quota, it was

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries which were not represented last year and are now represented, shall be allowed the same quota which was assigned last year to the several Presbyteries, and also that every member of this Assembly who has not heretofore received one, be allowed a copy.

Mr. John Connelly, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read at a former session, he took his seat as a member.

The subject of a report on the disciplining of baptized children, in relation to which the Assembly of the last year, and the year before, had taken order, was called up, and it appeared that several Presbyteries had brought forward a formal expression of their opinion in regard to the adoption or rejection of the report in question. On this a discussion having arisen whether the report was intended to be sent to the Presbyteries, for the expression of Presbyterial opinion on the subject, it was therefore,

*Resolved*, That the whole subject be referred to a committee, to consider and report to the Assembly what shall appear to them to be the correct method of procedure to be adopted relative thereto, in the circumstances in which it is now before the Assembly, and that Drs. Green, Woodhull, and Wilson, and Messrs. Caldwell, and Connelly, be the committee.

Reports of the Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry were called for, and Dr. Griffin, and Messrs. Dana, and McMullin, were appointed a committee to prepare a statement, exhibiting a general view of these reports, and the decisions of the Assembly upon them severally.

Adjourned to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in this city, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met agreeably to adjournment in the First Presbyterian Church, and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

The Rev. William Finney, of the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The receiving of reports from the Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the ministry, which was left unfinished in the morning, was resumed and finished.

A letter from a committee of the East Tennessee Missionary Society, requesting ministerial aid, was received, and being read, was referred to the Committee of Missions to consider the subject, and report to the Assembly.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Associations of Connecticut, and of Massachusetts proper, reported that they all attended; that the following persons were appointed by the General Association of Connecticut to certify the regular standing of travelling preachers, viz: the Rev. Messrs. Nathan Perkins, D. D., William Robinson, Benjamin Trumbull, D. D., John Elliot, Joseph Strong, D. D., Samuel J. Mills, Lyman Beecher, Frederick W. Hotchkiss, and Nathan Williams, D. D.

And that the following persons were appointed by the General Association of New Hampshire to certify the regular standing of candidates and ministers who wish to travel out of the state, viz: the Rev. Messrs. Asa McFarland, D. D., William F. Rowland, D. D., John H. Church, Eli Smith, Ethan Smith, Aaron Hall, Abijah Wines, Drury Fairbank, and Moses Bradford.

The Synods that manage the missionary business being called upon to state whether they had reported on the subject to the Committee of Missions, it was stated that the Synod of Pittsburgh had reported. No report was received on the subject from the Synod of Virginia.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Humphrey Hunter, and the Rev. Joseph D. Kilpatrick, of the Presbytery of Concord, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

A letter addressed to the Moderator from the Rev. Abijah Davis, was received and read, stating the presentation of a copy of his version of the Psalms of David to each member of the Assembly. The present was accepted, and it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to Mr. Davis.

The Committee of Overtures brought in an overture from the Presbytery of Lancaster, requesting a division of the Synod of Kentucky, of which they are a constituent member. This overture being read, was referred to Messrs. Hughes, Blackburn, and Gwin, to consider the subject, and report to the Assembly.

The Committee of Overtures also brought in an overture from the Presbytery of Miami, requesting of the Assembly an answer to the following question, viz:

"Is it consistent with the word of God, and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, to admit into the communion of said church, members of the Methodist Episcopal Society, while they continue their standing in said Society?"

After considerable discussion of the question, it was referred to Drs. Green and Wilson, and Mr. Wallace, to consider the subject, and report to the Assembly.

The Synodical and Presbyterial reports were received from all the Synods, except the Synod of Virginia, and but one Presbyterial report from within their bounds; and Messrs. Comfort, John Johnston, and John Smith, were appointed a committee to examine these reports, and read to the Assembly those parts which the committee may think necessary to be read, and to prepare a statement to be transcribed in the compendious view.

The Presbyteries were called upon to report their decisions severally on the question sent down by the last Assembly on the subject of ordination *sine titulo;* and Messrs. Dickey and Day were appointed a committee to report to the Assembly the decisions of the several Presbyteries on the subject.

The delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Convention of Vermont, reported that he attended; that the Rev. Messrs. Sylvester Sage, John Fitch, Bancroft Fowler, Martin Tuller, Heman Ball, Thomas A. Merrill, Publius V. Booge, and John Griswold, were appointed a Committee of Credentials; and that the next meeting of the Convention is to be held at the house of the Rev. Walter Chapin, in the town of Woodstock, on the second Tuesday in September next, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

A number of copies of the printed extracts of the Minutes of the General Associations of Connecticut and Massachusetts proper, and of the General Convention of Vermont, were presented to the Assembly.

Agreeably to an order of the last Assembly, inquiry was made of the Presbyteries severally as to the probable number of Bibles which might be advantageously distributed within their respective bounds, and Messrs. Hughes and Beecher were appointed a committee to report to the Assembly the result of the inquiry.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina reported, and the book was approved to the end of the sessions of October, 1813.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva reported, and moved that the book be approved to page 45, except a resolution (page 38) declaring that a deposed minister be treated as an excommunicated person.

This motion being under discussion, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Joseph D. Logan, and Mr. Benjamin Mosely, ruling elder, commissioners from the Presbytery of Hanover, and the Rev. Samuel T. Mills, of the Presbytery of Oneida, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats.

Dr. McKnight being necessarily absent, Mr. Cathcart, an alternate mentioned in their commission, being present, took his seat as a member.

The committee to which was referred the subject of inquiry relative to the number of Bibles wanted in different places reported, and their report being read, was recommitted to the same committee to add to their report the persons or places to which the Bibles wanted are to be transmitted; and also to report to the Assembly the mode proper to be adopted for circulating the information received on the subject.

The unfinished business of Saturday, viz: the motion of the committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva, being called up, was committed to Mr. Richards, Dr. Griffin, and Mr. Magraw, to consider the subject, and report to the Assembly.

A letter addressed to the Assembly from Mr. Thomas Dobson, stating the submitting to the inspection of the Assembly of the first American edition of the Hebrew Bible without points, was received and read, and it was

*Resolved*, That the copy of the edition accompanying the letter be laid on the table for the inspection of the members of the Assembly.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to receive communications on the subject of the state of religion; and the Rev. Messrs. Beecher, Spring, and Leland, were appointed a committee to prepare a connected narrative of the information which may be received on the subject, and lay it before the Assembly. After considerable progress made in the business, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The business left unfinished in the morning was resumed, and was finished; and the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 24*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

Mr. John F. Crow, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of West Lexington, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Peter Gordon, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read at a former session of the Assembly, he took his seat as a member.

*Resolved*, That the Standing Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., for the missionary sermon which, by their appointment, he had preached the preceding evening; and that the committee request of Dr. Alexander a copy of the sermon for publication.

The following overture was brought in by the Committee of Overtures, viz: a question submitted by a member from the Presbytery of Harmony, he having first submitted it to the Presbytery of which he is a member, and having been advised by them to lay it before the Assembly:

"A person who had been baptized in infancy by Joseph Priestley, LL. D., having applied for admission to the table of the Lord; should the baptism administered by Dr. Priestley, then a Unitarian, be considered valid?"

After considerable discussion, the question was committed to Drs. Griffin and Muir, and Mr. Leland, to consider the question, and report to the Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, and moved that the book be approved to page 33, except that part of the proceedings which admitted the Rev. William R. Weeks as a member of the Presbytery of Champlain, before said Presbytery was regularly formed by meeting, and constituting by prayer, and choosing officers.

After considerable discussion, the motion was carried.

Dr. Wilson resigned his seat to the Rev. Nathaniel Todd, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Todd being present took his seat as a member.

Mr. Robert Smith was added to the committee appointed to distribute the Commissioners' Fund.

The committee appointed to report a correct method of procedure to be adopted relative to a report on the disciplining of baptized children reported, and it was ordered that the report lie on the table.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh reported, and the book was approved to page 121.

The committee appointed to report to the Assembly the result of the attention which the Presbyteries severally had paid to the subject of educating poor and pious young men for the ministry, as appeared from the votes of the Assembly, reported; and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"From written or verbal statements it appears, that the following twenty-seven Presbyteries have done their duty on this subject, as recommended by the Assembly, viz:—Cayuga, Oneida, Columbia, Londonderry, Albany, Hudson, New York, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Baltimore, Redstone, Erie, Hartford, Ohio, Winchester, Muhlenburg, West Tennessee, South Carolina, West Lexington, Washington, Orange, Transylvania, Harmony, Miami, and Concord. From the above mentioned statements it likewise appears, that twenty-six young men are now receiving education for the ministry; supported by the following Presbyteries, viz: by the Presbytery of Oneida, one; Columbia, one; Hudson, two; New York, seven; Jersey, five; New Brunswick, three; Philadelphia, two; New Castle, one; Baltimore, one; Erie, one; Ohio, one; and Winchester, one.

It further appears that the following Presbyteries, not having carried into effect the recommendation of the Assembly, have yet offered, through their commissioners, such reasons as the Assembly have considered as satisfactory, viz: the Presbyteries of Northumberland, Huntingdon, and Lancaster. Concerning the Presbyteries of Onondaga, Geneva, and Carlisle, which have not complied with the recommendation of the Assembly, it was voted, that they be excused. Finally, it appears that from a considerable number of Presbyteries, no reports nor communications upon this important subject have been received."

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly an appeal from the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, which affirmed a decision of the Presbytery of Carlisle, in which decision the Presbytery resolved not to put into his hands a call for the Rev. Henry R. Wilson, from the congregation of Carlisle. After the appellants had made some progress in supporting their appeal, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee to which were referred the petition of the Presbytery of Lancaster, for the division of the Synod of Kentucky, and a resolution of the Synod on the same subject, reported in favour of the petition; and it was

*Resolved*, By the Assembly that the Presbytery of Lancaster be separated from the Synod of Pittsburgh, and the Presbyteries of Washington and Miami be separated from the Synod of Kentucky, and be erected into a new Synod and called by the name of the Synod of Ohio, to meet at Chillicothe on the last Thursday of October next; that the Rev. Robert G. Wilson, or in case of his absence, the senior minister present, open the Synod with a sermon and preside till a new moderator be chosen.

The following overtures were submitted to the Assembly, viz: the appointment of a committee to draw up a petition to Congress against the profanation of the Sabbath by opening of the mail on that day—the appointment of a committee to correspond with suitable characters of different denominations, in different parts of the Union on this subject—the transmission of a copy of the proceedings of the Assembly on the subject to each judicatory in connection with this Assembly, and to the judicatories of other religious denominations, in order to engage a general co-operation of all denominations in the United States in this important matter—and also the appointment of a committee, to prepare a pastoral letter to the churches under the care of the Assembly, on the subject of morals generally, exhorting to special personal circumspection in the observance of the Sabbath, to a vigilant efficient discipline, and recommending, wherever practicable, the formation of associations for the supression of vice, and the promotion of good morals.

These overtures were committed to Dr. Griffin, Messrs. Beecher and Chester.

Mr. Linn resigned his seat to the Rev. Joshua Williams, the alternate mentioned in their commission; and Mr. Denny resigned his seat to the Rev. David Elliott, the alternate mentioned in their commission; and Messrs. Williams and Elliott, being present, took their seats as members.

The business left unfinished in the morning, viz: an appeal from the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, affirming a decision of the Presbytery of Carlisle, in which decision the Presbytery resolved not to put into his hands a call for the Rev. Henry R. Wilson, from the congregation of Carlisle. After the parties had been heard at full length, and the subject had been considerably discussed, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Belville resigned his seat to the Rev. Joseph Barr, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Barr, being present, took his seat as a member.

The order of the day, viz: the hearing of a report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, being called for, was postponed, to take up the unfinished business of yesterday.

The unfinished business of yesterday, viz: an appeal from a decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, affirming a decision of the Presbytery of Carlisle, in which decision the Presbytery resolved not to put into his hands a call for the Rev. Henry R. Wilson, from the congregation of Carlisle, being resumed and fully discussed, it was

*Resolved*, That the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia be affirmed.

And it was accordingly affirmed.

The report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary was heard, and committed to Drs. Green, and Blatchford, and Mr. Gordon, to examine it, and report to the Assembly the parts which require the attention of the Assembly.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual account, as settled and approved by a committee of the Trustees, which was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

The Committee of Missions appeared in the Assembly, and made their first report, and it was committed to Messrs. Matthews, Herron, and Elliott, who were directed to select and report to the Assembly those articles which require their attention.

The committee appointed to draw up a connected narrative of the communications received on the state of religion, reported, and their report being read, was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Messrs. Hughes, Matthews, and Wallace, to make such corrections as to statement of facts and phraseology, as the committee may think proper.

Dr. Woodhull resigned his seat to the Rev. George S. Woodhull, and Mr. Woodhull being present took his seat as a member.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky, reported, and the book was approved to page 62.

The committee appointed to consider the exception taken to the records of the Synod of Geneva, relative to the mode of treating a person deposed from the ministry, reported, and the report being read, it was ordered that it lie on the table.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. John Mark, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Winchester, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Freeman resigned his seat to the Rev. James Patterson, the alternate mentioned in their commission; and Mr. Lummis resigned his seat to Mr. William Haslett, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

The committee to which was referred the question submitted by the member from the Presbytery of Harmony, and with the advice of that Presbytery, in the following words, viz: "A person who had been baptized in infancy by Dr. Priestley, applied for admission to the Lord's table; should the baptism administered by Dr. Priestley, then a Unitarian, be considered valid?" reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved,* That this question be answered in the negative.

And it accordingly was determined in the negative.

"In the present state of our country, whilst Unitarian errors, in various forms, are making their insidious approaches; whilst the advocates of this heresy, in many cases, are practising a system of concealment, and insinuating themselves into the confidence of multitudes, who have no suspicion of their defection from the faith, the Assembly feel it to be their duty to speak without reserve. It is the deliberate and unanimous opinion of this Assembly, that those who renounce the fundamental doctrine of the Trinity, and deny that Jesus Christ is the same in substance, equal in power and glory with the Father, cannot be recognized as ministers of the gospel, and that their ministrations are wholly invalid."

The committee to which was referred the consideration of a report made by the committee which had been appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva reported, and their report being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz: that the records of the Synod be approved to page 45, with the exception of a resolution in page 28, which declares that a deposed minister ought to be treated as an excommunicated person. In the judgment of this Assembly the deposition and excommunication of a minister are distinct things, not necessarily connected with each other, but when connected ought to be inflicted by the Presbytery to whom the power of judging and censuring ministers properly belongs.

An overture was brought in requesting a decision of the Assembly stating the manner in which certain persons should be treated who belonged to the late Cumberland Presbytery, and who have, since the dissolution of said Presbytery, erected themselves into a new Presbytery.

The committee to which were referred the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, brought in their report, and it was accepted, and direction was given that the Stated Clerk transcribe it into the compendious view.

The committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and the book was approved to page 311.

Mr. Robert Evans obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

Mr. Campbell obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

An overture was brought in containing an appeal taken by the Presbytery of Philadelphia from a decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, in which the Synod had determined there was ground for an appeal taken by persons styling themselves commissioners from the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, from a decision of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. This overture being read, was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

The committee to which was referred the overture relative to the appointment of a committee to write a pastoral letter to the churches on the subject of morals generally, &c., recommended that a committee be appointed without delay to draw up a pastoral letter exclusively on the importance of a strict observation of the Sabbath, and Messrs. Richards, Janeway, and Dana, were appointed a committee for the purpose.

Mr. Pool resigned his seat to Mr. James Moore, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Moore, being present, took his seat as a member.

The committee to which was referred the first report of the Committee of Missions reported, and their report being read and amended was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

The committee appointed to select such parts of the report of the Committee of Missions as need their attention, offer the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Assembly approve of the appointment of James W. Thompson and James Joyce as missionaries, the former for three, and the latter for one month.

That agreeably to the request of Robert F. N. Smith, the Assembly cheerfully accept the moneys collected by him after the expiration of the term for which he was appointed a missionary, and tender him their thanks for the service gratuitously performed within their missionary bounds.

That Mr. Vivus Osborn, who acted as a missionary instead of the missionaries appointed from the Presbytery of Cayuga, be paid for his services.

That the Assembly approve the payment of the Rev. James Joyce by the Treasurer for his missionary services.

That the Assembly approve of the appointment of the Rev. John Gloucester as a missionary for three months among the blacks in Philadelphia.

That the Rev. Isaac Lewis be allowed a compensation for the whole of the time which he spent on missionary ground.

That the Rev. Messrs. Charles Mosher, Daniel S. Butrick, and William Clark, be allowed compensation for the time which they respectively spent in missionary service.

That the Assembly adopt the recommendation of the Committee of Missions, relative to the distribution of the books and pamphlets received from Miss Jane Aitken.

And that the conduct of the Committee of Missions in publishing a pamphlet, entitled "Missionary Intelligence," be approved; and that it be recommended to the Presbyteries to take measures for circulating among their churches the interesting information contained in that pamphlet.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly approve the recommendation of the Committee of Missions to the Trustees for the payment of the following sums:

To William Bradford for printing missionary intelligence, &c., $80.50. To Samuel Bacon for serving notices, $15.00.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly issue warrants for the payment of the following sums:

To the Rev. John Lyle, $33.25. Rev. R. F. N. Smith, 64.71. Rev. William Bull, 73.90. Rev. John Boyd, of New Brunswick, 66.67. Mr. Vivus Osborn, 15.41. Rev. Elisha McCurdy, 40.00. Rev. Thomas Marques, 32.00. Rev. Joseph S. Hughes, 20.00. Rev. Asahel Stone, 37.86. Rev. Joshua Spalding, 71.40. Rev. James Hughes, 32.25. Rev. John Boyd, 59.00. Rev. Joseph Stephenson, 36.00. Rev. Nathan H. Hall, 40.00. Rev. James Kemper, 27.25. Rev. Thomas Moore, 35.67. Rev. James McGready, 60.67. Rev. Isaac Lewis, 140.00. Rev. Andrew Rawson, 45.40. Rev. Joshua Johnson, 138.67. Rev. William Robinson, 30.80. Rev. Oliver Ayer, 6.67. Rev. Thomas Hunt, 96.70. Rev. Robert Semple, 18.50. Rev. Clement Vallandigham, 29.65. Rev. Samuel Doake, 7.04. Rev. John Boyd, 72.13. Rev. Asa Dunham, 70.69. Rev. John Hayes, 15.69. Rev. Hezekiah Woodruff, 62.23. Rev. James Cunningham, 100.00. Rev. Charles Mosher, 30.32. Rev. Daniel S. Butrick, 80.00. Rev. William Clark, 12.83. Rev. Dr. James Hall, 22.45. Rev. Eliphalet Price, 40.00. Rev. Alexander Cooke, 119.38. Rev. Joseph P. Howe, 37.92. Rev. John R. Moreland, 120.00. Rev. Stephen Bovell, 6.20. Rev. Robert Marshall, 32.50.

The committee to which was referred the consideration of the manner in which certain persons should be treated, who formerly belonged to the late Cumberland Presbytery, and who, since the dissolution of said Presbytery, continue to style themselves the Cumberland Presbytery, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That those persons were under the censure of the church at the time of their constituting as a Presbytery; that they had neglected to take the regular steps for the removal of that censure, though advised and urged to this course; that they erected themselves into a judicatory contrary to the rules of our discipline; that the grounds of their separation from us were, that we would not relax our discipline, and surrender some important doctrines of our Confession of Faith; wherefore,

*Resolved*, That the aforesaid persons be viewed as having derived no authority from us to exercise discipline, or administer the ordinances of the church, and that our regular members cannot treat with them as a body, but only as individuals.

The Synodical report of the Synod of Virginia, and a Presbyterial report from the Presbytery of Winchester, were received, and the committee to which the Synodical and Presbyterial reports before received were committed, was reappointed, and the reports from the Synod of Virginia, and of the Presbytery of Winchester, were committed to them, to add them to their former report.

The report on the subject of disciplining baptized children, which had at a former session of this Assembly been laid on the table, was again read, and recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Drs. Griffin and Blatchford, and Messrs. Blackburn, Fisher, and Haslett.

An appeal of the session of the Third Presbyterian Church of this city, from the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, affirming a decision of the

Presbytery of Philadelphia, in which decision the Presbytery required said session to convene the congregation for the purpose of electing a pastor, was overtured, and it was made the order of the day for the afternoon.

Agreeably to a standing rule, nominations were made for delegates to attend the General Associations of Connecticut, Massachusetts proper, and New Hampshire, and the General Convention of Vermont; and the election of these delegates was made the order of the day for the afternoon.

The committee to which was referred the report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary reported, and their report being read and under discussion, the first and second resolutions relative to raising collections, and writing a pastoral letter, were committed to Dr. Neill, Messrs. Cathcart and Galbraith, to consider them, and report to the Assembly. The third resolution being under discussion, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of last session were read.

The Rev. George Bourne, of the Presbytery of Lexington, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day for the afternoon, an election was held for delegates to attend the different associations connected with the Assembly, and the following persons were duly chosen to attend, viz:

The Rev. John Chester, the Rev. Aaron W. Leland, and the Rev. John Johnson, to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut.

The Rev. John Chester, and the Rev. Aaron W. Leland, to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Massachusetts proper; and the Rev. John Johnson was chosen an alternate to whichever of these delegates may fail to attend, if either should fail.

The Rev. Gardiner Spring, and the Rev. Gershom Williams, were chosen to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire; and

The Rev. Gershom Williams to attend the next meeting of the General Convention of Vermont, and in case of his failure to attend, the Rev. Gardiner Spring was appointed his alternate.

*Resolved*, That the delegates be allowed the compensation fixed by a former Assembly.

The Rev. David Porter, D. D., and the Rev. Richard Williams, were appointed a committee to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Chester. The Rev. Daniel Crane, and the Rev. Andrew King, were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Johnson. And the Rev. Messrs. James Richards, John McDowell, Asa Hillyer, and Samuel Fisher, were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpits of Messrs. Spring and Williams, during their necessary attention to their respective delegations.

It being the order of the day for the afternoon, the appeal of the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, was called up.

A number of copies of a book containing a history of the former proceedings in this case, and strictures upon them, having been distributed through the pews of the church, it was

*Resolved*, That, in the opinion of the Assembly, the distribution of books, letters, or pamphlets, among the members of the house, relative to a cause pending before them, or which is expected to be submitted to their decision, is an infringement upon the prerogatives of this house, and ought to be discountenanced as an illegal and improper attempt to bias the judgment of the members.

Messrs. Burton, and Fisher obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Nominations were made for two Directors of the Theological Seminary, to fill the vacancies occasioned by the death of Dr. Clark, and the resignation of Dr. Miller, and the election was made the order of the day for tomorrow morning.

The commissioners appointed by the session to support their appeal having made considerable progress, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Wallace obtained leave of absence, (after to-morrow morning,) during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the consideration of the overture relative to admitting to communion members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, reported, and the report being read, was recommitted to the same committee.

It being the order of the day, the election was held for two Directors of the Theological Seminary. The ballots being taken were committed to Messrs. Magraw and Baird, to read them and report to the Assembly the number of the votes given for the several candidates.

The committee appointed to count the votes given for Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported, and from their report it appeared that the Rev. David Comfort, and the Rev. Gardiner Spring were chosen, and they were therefore declared duly elected Directors of the Theological Seminary.

The order of the day, viz: the appeal of the Presbytery of Philadelphia from a decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, was postponed to take up the unfinished business of yesterday.

The unfinished business of yesterday, viz: the appeal of the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, was resumed, and after considerable progress made in it, this business was suspended.

Mr. William Latta resigned his seat to the Rev. George W. Janvier, and Mr. Janvier, being present, took his seat as a member.

The Rev. James Patterson was added to the committee appointed to select extracts from the minutes of this Assembly.

The Committee on the Commissioners' Fund reported, and their report being read was recommitted to the same committee.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Day obtained leave of absence, (after to-morrow forenoon,) during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to which the connected narrative of the state of religion had been recommitted, being called upon to report, the narrative was read, and being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"In reviewing the dealings of divine providence towards their churches the past year, the General Assembly have abundant testimony, that the King of Zion is the guardian of his people. Every glance discovers the finger of God. In those congregations that are favoured with the institutions of the gospel, the Assembly are happy to find a respectful and general attention to the preached word. Though in a few places there has been a partial suspension of ministerial labours, arising from the unhappy state of some congregations on our frontiers; and in others, some defection in the regard which has been heretofore paid to the duties of the sanctuary; yet there has been on the whole an increased attention to the means of grace.

There is a state between that stupidity which casts a gloom around every prospect, and that excitement which gilds every prospect with hope, that characterizes many of our congregations. In these churches there is no general outpouring of the Spirit of grace; but there is that anxiety to hear the preached word, that solicitude to frequent public and private associations for prayer, together with some instances of conviction, and more of solemnity, which we venture to hail as the earnest of better days.

In many of our congregations these days of hope have already issued in seasons of refreshing and joy. The same Saviour that took away the hard and stony hearts of the Jews in Babylon, and that shed forth his Holy Spirit on the days of Pentecost, is giving before our eyes signal exhibitions of his amiable sovereignty and irresistible grace. In many places the people of God have been roused from their lethargy, affected with clear views of divine things, and animated with ardent desires to promote the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, and to see it promoted in the world. The attention of the thoughtless has been powerfully arrested. Multitudes have been awakened to a sense of their sinfulness, their danger, and their duty; and many a stout-hearted rebel has been brought to bow before the feet of a crucified Saviour. The congregations that have been eminently favoured with these effusions of mercy, are in the towns of Pompey and Homer, within the Presbytery of Onondaga; in Utica, Whitesborough, and Litchfield, within the Presbytery of Oneida; and in Hebron, within the Presbytery of Columbia. In several congregations within the bounds of the Jersey Presbytery, in addition to the gleanings of an earlier harvest, there have been a number of extensive revivals. New Providence, Morristown, Bloomfield, Orange, Newark, Elizabethtown, and Connecticut Farms, have been highly favoured of God. In Hanover, South Hanover, and Springfield, particularly, the right hand of the Lord has been truly exalted within the course of the past winter. While casting our eyes toward this favoured district of country, where there have been three extensive revivals in eleven years, we remember with thankfulness the years of the right hand of the Most High, and render praise to him whose mercy endureth for ever. In Princeton, and in Kingston, within the bounds of the New Brunswick Presbytery, we have also the privilege to state that there is an increased attention to religion. We are exceedingly happy to hear that God is drawing so near one of our principal seminaries of learning, and we indulge the hope that he will again visit in mercy this favoured institution. We have reason to believe that vital piety is evidently rising in influence in some parts of Virginia. In Richmond, Petersburgh, Fredericksburgh, and particularly Norfolk, there have been considerable effusions of the Spirit, though no general revivals. New churches have been established, encouraging additions to them have been made, and at the present time the prospect is unusually animating. In the counties of Albemarle, Culpepper, and Madison, very considerable attention has been excited by the labours of missionaries. In the congregations of Hawfields, and Crossroads, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Orange, there has been some unusual seriousness. In the Presbytery of West Lexington, the prevalence of malignant disease has been followed by deep searchings of heart, and anxious cries for mercy. And among the blacks in the Presbytery of Harmony, we are rejoiced to learn there is much solemnity, and great engagedness in divine things. In some of the aforementioned places, the attention to religion seems to be at present on the decline, and in others it is still advancing. The whole scene is enough to gladden the heart. The risen Redeemer still has the work of salvation in his own hands, and turneth the hearts of the children of men whithersoever he will, as the rivers of water are turned.

The subjects of these revivals have been chiefly from among the youth—from the children of believing parents; and in some places, particularly from the youth who have paid punctual and respectful regard to catechetical instruction. The general character of the work has been such as usually marks the genuine operations of the Holy Spirit. Though not without great power of feeling, the subjects have been free from the appearance of extravagance. The seasons of worship have been sacredly still, rather than tumultuously violent. The speechless agony of multitudes who have been brought to see their sinfulness and their danger, has been more the effect of truth bearing down upon the conscience, than that transient and violent emotion, excited by natural fear, and cherished by animal feeling. They have been deeply impressed with a sense of the infinite majesty and holiness of God—of the spirituality, extent, and obligation of the divine law—the exceeding sinfulness of sin—the total depravity of the human heart—the necessity of regeneration by the almighty power of the Holy Spirit—of justification, 'not by works, but freely by the grace of God, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus'—the indispensable necessity of an interest in atoning blood—and of that holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.

The General Assembly are gratified to learn that praying societies, established for the special purpose of imploring the effusion of the Holy Spirit upon the churches; charitable institutions for the aid of poor and pious young men of the gospel ministry, and for sending the gospel to the heathen; and societies for the religious instruction of the children in the suburbs of our cities, have increased in number, and are widely extending their influence. Nor can they regard with too much gratitude the heavenly ardor of many pious females, whose weekly associations for prayer, and daily exertions in the distribution of Bibles among the poor, show us what it is to imitate the example of Him who went about doing good.

The Assembly feel no small satisfaction in stating the increase of united and vigorous effort in some portion of country within their limits, for the advancement of morals. A solicitude upon this subject is beginning to be felt. The indispensable necessity of embodying the influence of the land in favour of religion and morality, is beginning to be felt deeply, and we cannot but hope that such a combination will be formed, and cannot but believe that it will be greatly successful.

During the year past, Bible societies have greatly increased in number and utility. Few districts of our country are now without them. Their influence is widely extensive, and incalculably beneficial. Experience has proved that no human exertions are so effectual to harmonize Christians, to excite religious zeal, to suppress vice and immorality, and to diffuse light and knowledge, as the gratuitous distribution of the Word of Life.

The Assembly rejoice to have it in their power to state, that the great Head of the Church has vouchsafed a signal blessing on the missionary efforts of the past year. Forty missionaries have been employed the last year, whose journals afford the most pleasing testimony of the beneficial result of their labours. Several new churches have been organized, and more have been put into a forming state. Many new churches are growing up in the western parts of Tennessee; a missionary society has lately been formed in that State. The call for missionary exertion is loud, and the services of our missionaries have been received with emotions of gratitude and joy.

In taking a view of the state of religion within the bounds of the Assembly, an interesting object which arrests the attention, is the infant Theological Seminary, lately established at Princeton. From this Seminary it is hoped that many able and faithful labourers will go forth to reap the whitening harvest. The state of the Seminary is at once promising and critical. It is under the immediate superintendence and instruction of two able Professors, who devote their whole time laboriously to the education of the youth committed to their charge. The number of these youth has already been as great as twenty-four; and if the means of supporting the establishment shall be furnished, there is the most flattering prospect that it will become a fruitful nursery for the Church. But unless these means shall be furnished speedily and liberally, every prospect will be clouded, and the raised expectations of many of the friends of Zion utterly disappointed. The Directors of that Seminary have reported a statement of the assistance which has been furnished by benevolent associations of females, to such of the theological students as need pecuniary aid, which has surprised, gratified, and exceedingly rejoiced their fathers and brethren in the Church. Let them proceed, and abound in these works of pious benevolence, so worthy of them, and so ornamental to our holy religion; and let all of both sexes, who witness their liberality, resolve to 'go and do likewise.'

In this view we rejoice. 'Who is a God like unto our God, that passeth by the transgressions of the remnant of his heritage, and will not retain his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy!'

But we leave this pleasing retrospect. We turn with grief from these scenes of verdure and delight, to that extensive waste where no verdure animates; that barren heath on which there is no dew, nor rain, from the Lord. Between three and four hundred of our congregations are destitute of the stated ministrations of a preached gospel. Thousands in this land of vision are destroyed for lack of knowledge; thousands suffering a famine, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. And even in the midst of gospel privileges, we behold very many and very large portions of our Church in a state of deplorable stupidity. The same rain and sunshine that ripen the wheat for the garner of the great Husbandman, appear to be ripening the tares for the unquenchable flame. We have also too much evidence of awful declension among many of the professed followers of Jesus Christ. In very many of our congregations, the past year has been a season of chilling indifference toward divine things. Seasons when the people of God were animated with fervent zeal for the promotion of the divine glory, have given way to seasons when the pitiable attachment to earth, the pursuit of lying vanities that cannot profit, unhappy and needless dissensions have superseded, and almost eradicated the once tender solicitude for the accomplishment of God's gracious designs in favour of his people. Oh, how shall we speak of that criminal indifference toward the cause for which the Babe of Bethlehem was bathed in tears, the Son of God crimsoned with blood! Jerusalem is almost forgotten. Zion's fair heritage lies desolate. The spirit, the maxims, and the policy of the world begin, in some instances, to be intimately interwoven with the discipline and policy of the Church. The tenderest and the strongest bands of union in some churches, begin to be severed. That noxious weed, the spirit of party, while it embitters the sweetness, and poisons the life of vital godliness, is unnerving the vigour of Christian exertion. Connected with these foreboding symptoms, there is a melancholy prevalence of vice and immorality. Profane swearing, intemperance, sabbath-breaking, and other immoralities, exist in many places to an alarming degree, threatening to sap the foundation of our religious and civil institutions.

From our brethren in the New England States we have received very interesting information. From the General Association of Connecticut we learn that numerous revivals of religion have taken place in that State the past year; particularly in the city of Hartford, in the congregations of East Hartford, Orford, Weathersfield, Simsbury, New Coventry, Litchfield, Milton, and South Farms. These revivals have, under God, been occasioned and promoted by the preaching of the great doctrines of the Reformation. In some instances this work of divine grace has been slowly progressive; in others, sudden and powerful; but in all silent, deep, and apparently genuine. The moral influence of this work of grace has been eminently salutary, and signally manifested in unusual and general solicitude for the suppression of vice, and the promotion of morality.

From the General Association of Massachusetts proper, we learn that the cause of truth in opposition to Socinian and Arian errors is on the whole advancing, though not rapidly. A number of revivals of religion have taken place in that State, particularly in the towns of Gloucester, Lee, Long Meadow, and Stockbridge. Some favourable appearances are exhibited at Falmouth, and in several places in the western part of the State. The number of students at the Theological Seminary at Andover is about sixty. The greater part of the present members of Williams College are professors of religion. Spirited and persevering efforts are likewise here making for the reformation of morals.

From the General Convention of the State of Vermont we hear some things to deplore, and some that are matter of rejoicing. In those places that are adjacent to the seat of the war there has been an awful defection from good morals, and a lamentable increase of bold and daring vices. A few towns have been favoured with special outpourings of the divine Spirit, particularly in Bridport and Pawlett. Of the members of Middlebury College we are happy to learn there are about fifty who have it in view to devote themselves to the work of the ministry.

On the whole, the Assembly cannot but feel that the cause of religion and morality has been signally advanced the past year. Notwithstanding all the sin and wretchedness of our world, the past year has been a year of joy to our churches. The Lord seems to have come out of his place to 'redeem Zion with judgments, and her converts with righteousness.' While with one hand he is 'pulling down strong holds, and casting down imaginations;' with the other he is raising Jerusalem from the dust, and clothing her with the garments of strength and salvation. The same voice that is proclaiming 'the day of vengeance of our God,' is also proclaiming 'the acceptable year of the Lord.' The 'night is far spent, the day is at hand.' The darkness is past. Already is the command gone forth to the tribes of the wilderness, and the islands of the sea, 'Arise, shine, O Zion! for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee, and the gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.' It is too late a period, Christians, to sit down, and fold your arms in the gloom of discouragement and inactivity. Yes, it is too late a period. The mountains of ignorance and idolatry will welcome the feet of them that publish good tidings; the wilderness of the western world will blossom as the rose; the altars of the east will be overturned; the images of Moloch will be broken down, and the only question is, whether the work shall be performed, and the reward enjoyed by others, or by you? O brethren, our hearts beat high with hope. Will the Lord cast off for ever? Will his anger smoke against the sheep of his pasture? Arise, O God! plead thine own cause! Amen."

*Resolved*, That two thousand copies of this narrative be printed as soon as practicable, and that Mr. Spring superintend the printing.

The report of the committee to which was recommitted the consideration of the overture relative to admitting members of the Methodist church, was brought in and read, and after some discussion the further consideration of it was postponed to take up the unfinished business of the morning.

The unfinished business of the morning, viz: the appeal of the Session of the Third Presbyterian church in this city, was resumed, and after considerable discussion of the subject the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 28th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to report a statement of the decisions of the several Presbyteries, relative to a rule proposed by the last Assembly, on the subject of ordination *sine titulo*, which decisions had been read in the Assembly, reported, and the report being read, was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

That from twenty-two Presbyteries, viz: Cayuga, Columbia, Londonderry, Albany, Hudson, Onondaga, Jersey, Carlisle, Baltimore, Northumberland, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Redstone, Winchester, Harmony, Lexington, Orange, Washington, Transylvania, Miami, Oneida, and Geneva, written reports in the negative were received; that from four Presbyteries, viz: Concord, Ohio, South Carolina, and Muhlenburg, written reports were received in the affirmative; that from four Presbyteries, viz: New York, New Castle, New Brunswick, and West Lexington, verbal reports in the negative were received; and that from the other Presbyteries no reports were received, and therefore the proposed rule was negatived.

The committee appointed to make a distribution of the moneys paid into the Commissioners' Fund, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That moneys have been paid into the Treasury, for this fund, as follows, viz:

Balance in hand, May 29th, 1813, $27.24. May, 1813, received of Rev. Mr. Dana, of Londonderry Presbytery, since ascertained to belong to this Fund, 30.86. June 9, 1813, received of Rev. Thomas Cleveland of Transylvania Presbytery, 10.00. June 11, received of John Keith, Newtown, Philadelphia Presbytery, 3.00. In hand at the publication of the extracts, $71.10.

Received since of the following Presbyteries—Londonderry, $33.58. Columbia, 131.17. Albany, 157.25. Oneida, 79.16. Geneva, 67.27. Cayuga, 32.00. Onondaga, 31.36. Long Island, 39.72. Hudson, 113.08. New York, 260 30. Jersey, 159.62. New Brunswick, 84.73. Philadelphia, 134.36. New Castle, 102.48. Baltimore, 20.00. Huntingdon, 35.00. Northumberland, 15.00. Redstone, 114.13. Ohio, 67.59. Erie, 44.73. Hartford, 40.04. Winchester, 30.00. Transylvania, 40.00 West Lexington, 35.62. Washington, 70.75. Miami, 45.00. Muhlenburg, 31.83. Orange, 90.00. Concord, 35.00. Harmony, 40.00. Lancaster, 28.37. Total, $2280.24.

And that there is due to the following commissioners the sums annexed to their names, viz:

To the Rev. Dr. Woodhull, $6.90. Mr. Comfort, 4.60. Mr. Campbell, 8.62½. Mr. Skillman, 5 06. Mr. Gordon, 3.45. Mr. Fisher, 10.35. Mr. Williams, 9.20. Mr. Crane, 10.35. Mr. Magie, 9.20. Mr. Hillyer, 9.77½. Mr. Richards, 9.20. Mr. Lamson, 11.50. Mr. Whitlock, 10.92½. Mr. Spring, 10.92½. Dr. Blatchford, 30.47½. Dr. Corning, 30.01. Mr. Chester, 25.87½. Mr. Day, 25.30. Mr. Prime, 33.35. Mr. Freeman, 4.60. Mr. Lummis, 4.60. Mr. Johnson, of Erie, 46.00. Mr. Leland, 80.50. Mr. Boyd, 69.00. Mr. Chapman, 57.50. Mr. Vallandigham, 40.94. Mr. Ostrom, 20.12½. Mr. Johnston, of Hudson, 18.97½. Mr. Linderman, 18.97½. Mr. Cumming, 18.40. Mr. Grant, 17.25. Mr. Kilpatrick, 69.00. Mr. Hunter, 69.00. Mr. Robinson, 57.50. Mr. Galbraith, 30.24½. Mr. J. Smith, of Oneida, 36.34. Mr. Mills, 37.95. Mr. Frost, 40.25. Mr. Mosher, 32.89. Mr. Hickman, 28.98. Mr. Holiday, 30.93½. Mr. Phelps, 40.25. Mr. Stoyell, 31.05. Mr. Herron, 34.50. Mr. Dickey, 109.59½. Mr. William Johnston, of Redstone, 33.35. Mr. Swan, 32.20. Mr. Lyle, 77.16½. Mr. Crow, 79.23½. Mr. Matthews, 19.55. Mr. Lapsley, 86.59½. Mr. Dana, 39.67½. Mr. Graham, 5.75. Mr. Finney, 6.90. Mr. Magraw, 6.90. Mr. Evans, 6.90. Mr. Burton, 6.09½. Mr. Dunham, 14.95. Mr. Lynn, 20.70. Mr. Coulter, 17.82½. Mr. Gwin, 33.12. Mr. Chadwick, 40.25. Mr. Chamberlain, 32.43. Dr. Neill, 29.32½. Mr. Clow, 34.50. Mr. Wallace, 74.75. Mr. John Smith, of Transylvania, 86.09½. Mr. Ely, 10.92½. Mr. Hughes, 40.25. Mr. Blackburn, 100.62½. Dr. Green, 4.60. Mr. Moore, 4.60. Amount, $2256.18.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue warrants for the payment of the foregoing sums.

Mr. Gershom Williams was added to the committee appointed to report to the Assembly on the subject of disciplining baptized children.

The business left unfinished yesterday afternoon was resumed, and after the parties had been heard at full length, a motion was made and seconded, that the appeal be sustained. After some discussion of this motion, the farther consideration of it was postponed till Monday morning.

Mr. Todd resigned his seat to Dr. Wilson, the principal mentioned in their commission.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 30th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Dana obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The discussion of the motion made on Saturday to sustain the appeal of the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, was resumed, and after considerable discussion of the subject, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The business left unfinished in the morning was resumed, and after a full discussion of the subject, the motion to sustain the appeal of the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, from the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, affirming a decision of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, by which the Presbytery directed the said Session, within twenty days from the date of their decision or after the final determination of the case, to convene the congregation for the purpose of electing a pastor, was determined in the affirmative; and Dr. Green, Dr. Neill, and Mr. Richards, were appointed a committee to prepare a minute, stating the principles upon which the Assembly sustained the appeal.

Messrs. Chapman, Lamson, and Holiday, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 31st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to prepare a statement of the principles and grounds upon which the Assembly sustained the appeal of the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted in the words following, viz :

" That both to prevent misapprehension, and to aid the congregations and judicatures of this church in deciding on any similar cases that may arise, the Assembly therefore declare,

1. That in vacant congregations which are fully organized, the Session of each congregation are to determine, under their responsibility to the higher judicatures, when the congregation are prepared to elect a pastor, as directed in the Form of Government of this church, chapter 14, sec. 1.

2. That it is the duty of the Session when a congregation is vacant, to use their best endeavours to promote the settlement of a pastor in the same, in the speediest manner possible, consistently with the peace, order, and edification of the congregation; and it is the privilege of the people, or of any portion of them, to complain to the Presbytery when they think that the Session, after being suitably requested, neglect or refuse to convene the congregation to elect a pastor.

3. That it belongs to the Presbyteries to take cognizance of the proceedings of Sessions and congregations in the important concern of settling pastors, and to adopt the most effectual measures, on the one hand to prevent all undue delay by the Session or the people, and on the other to prevent all precipitancy in the settlement of any minister, or the adoption of any system of proceedings in the congregation inconsistent with the real and permanent edification of the people.

4. That by the due and discreet observance of these principles by all concerned, it will be found that so far from the Session of a congregation having it in their power to deprive a majority of a congregation of their right to make an election of a pastor, when sought in an orderly and Christian manner, or to keep a congregation unsettled for an indefinite length of time, the rights of the people will be most effectually secured, and their precious and unalienable privilege of choosing their own pastor will be exercised by them, in the shortest period which their own real benefit will permit.

5. That the conviction of this Assembly, that the foregoing obvious and constitutional principles had not been duly adhered to in the case before them; that the congregation had not proceeded with a suitable respect to the Session, and the Presbytery did not adopt the most suitable measure, when they advised and directed the Session to convene the congregation in twenty days—has led the Assembly to sustain this appeal, as the measure most constitutional, best calculated on the whole to do justice to all the parties concerned, and to point the way to the most speedy settlement of the unhappy differences and disorders which have so long existed in the particular congregation immediately concerned.

The appeal of the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, from a decision of the Synod of Philadelphia affirming a decision of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, in which the Presbytery, at the request of a majority of the congregation, had granted liberty to the Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely to preach in their church on Sabbath and Wednesday evenings, was called up, and it appearing that it was not accompanied with such documents as to enable the Assembly orderly to proceed in the trial of this appeal; whereupon it was

*Resolved*, That the trial of this appeal be delayed till such documents as are necessary to its orderly consideration be laid before the Assembly.

The appeal of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, from the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, in relation to an appeal taken by the commissioners of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, from a decision of said Presbytery, dismissing a protest and remonstrance of certain members of said church, and relative to certain positions adopted by said Presbytery, which had been overtured, being taken up for consideration, after a short discussion it was agreed by all the parties concerned, and concurred in by the Assembly, that all proceedings in this case shall cease for ever.

The Assembly being peculiarly gratified with the friendship and harmony between the parties, manifested by this agreement, and it being on motion determined, the Moderator offered up thanksgiving to God.

Mr. Gordon obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Messrs. Caldwell, and Ostrom obtained leave of absence, (after this day,) during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The following overture was brought in, and being read, was adopted, viz:

Whereas, ministers of the gospel, and lay members of our judicatories, do need, and it is known that many of these as well as others, desire to possess, the printed extracts of the General Assembly of our church, from the year 1789, it was therefore

*Resolved*, That the Assembly order a number of copies to be printed, and that the profits arising from the sale, be added to the funds of the Assembly.

And Messrs. Matthews, Janeway, and Chester were appointed a committee to attend to the printing of said extracts.

Messrs. Hughes, Vallandigham, and Robert Johnston were appointed a committee to consider the propriety of appointing a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer, and to report on the subject to the Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

A letter from the Rev. William R. Weeks, styling himself the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Champlain, was received, and being read, was referred to the Stated Clerk.

The Directors of the Theological Seminary having stated to the Assembly that Richard Stockton, Esq. had proposed to sell to the Directors six acres of land, at two hundred dollars per acre, for the accommodation of the institution, it was

*Resolved*, That the Directors be authorized to purchase said land, and they are hereby authorized.

Drs. Davis, Muir, and Blatchford, were appointed a committee to draw up a plan for forming societies to aid by their contributions the funds appropriated to the use of the Theological Seminary.

It being recommended by the Directors of the Theological Seminary, the 10th section of the 6th article of the plan of the Theological Seminary was amended in manner following, viz:

"There shall be two vacations in the Seminary, of six weeks continuance each, in every year, to commence at such times as the Board of Directors may deem most expedient."

The committee to which was referred the report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, to ascertain the parts of it which require the attention of the Assembly, reported, and their report being read and amended was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, 1. That the Assembly have heard with lively pleasure of the exertions which have been made by associations of pious and benevolent females, for the support of such students in the Theological Seminary as needed pecuniary aid, and of the discreet and delicate manner in which this aid has been offered; and the Assembly recommend the continuance and increase of those associations so ornamental to religion, and so highly important to the vital interests of this infant institution.

2. That the Assembly recommend to the ministers and members of their communion, the donation and collection of books for the Theological Seminary, remarking that the possession of an extensive library is of the utmost importance to the Seminary, and that many books most necessary to this library may be presented to it without any sensible inconvenience or expense to those who possess them.

3. That the sum of four thousand dollars be put at the disposal of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, for defraying the necessary expenses of the same for the ensuing year, together with the unexpended balance of the appropriation of last year, amounting to $908.25.

4. That the Trustees of this Assembly be directed to receive and hold, for the use of the Theological Seminary, the transfers which have been made, or shall be made, of property bequeathed to the Seminary.

5. That the Assembly earnestly recommend it, not only to their agents, but to their ministers and members, to encourage wherever they have influence the patronage of this Seminary, by donations and by bequests, remembering that it is to this source chiefly, that the institution must probably be indebted for its permanent funds and support."

The committee to which was referred the consideration of several resolutions contained in the report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported the following resolutions which were adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, 1. That it be, and it hereby is earnestly recommended to the congregations in connection with this Assembly, to countenance and promote the formation of societies in aid of the Theological Seminary. That such societies when formed report themselves to the Rev. John McDowell, of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, and forward the moneys collected by them to Mr. Isaac Snowden of Philadelphia, Treasurer of the Trustees of the Assembly.

2. That districts be assigned to the agents appointed for the ensuing year to solicit contributions to the Seminary. That in prosecuting this business, the agents who are ministers of the gospel, taking the advice of the pastors among whose people they solicit, preach when convenient on the Sabbath previously to their making personal application for subscriptions. That the agents, if they have pastoral charges, provide supplies for their pulpits (during their attention to this business) at the expense of the General Assembly.

The agents appointed to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary were called upon to report, and Dr. Fitch and Mr. Magraw were appointed a committee to take the several reports received, and report to the Assembly the result.

Messrs. Prime, Swan, and Hillyer, were appointed a committee to report to the Assembly persons to be appointed agents to solicit donations in money and books for the Theological Seminary, to designate districts for the several agents, and any thing farther which the committee may think advantageous to promote this object.

Dr. Green resigned his seat to the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., the principal mentioned in their commission; and Dr. Alexander was appointed to succeed Dr. Green in the several committees of which he was a member.

The committee appointed to add to the report, which they had before made on the subject, the Synodical report and several Presbyterial reports since received, reported, and their report being accepted it was ordered that it be transcribed into the compendious view.

*Resolved*, That the rule adopted by a former Assembly notifying the commissioners, who from time to time may attend the Assembly, of the propriety of coming prepared to attend at least two weeks, be re-published in the printed extracts.

The Committee of Missions made their second report, which being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

The Committee of Missions beg leave to report to the General Assembly, that since their first report they have received the journal of the Rev. Samuel Tait, for 1812. As Mr. Tait was taken sick while engaged in his mission, the committee recommend that, in addition to his salary for one month, he be allowed to retain what he collected, amounting to five dollars.

The committee recommend to the General Assembly, that the following missionaries be appointed, and that the following Presbyteries be authorized to employ missionaries, on missionary ground, within their respective bounds.

1. The Rev. Ashbel Parmelee for two months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Champlain.
2. The Rev. John Younglove for three months, his route to be prescribed by the Rev. Jonas Coe.
3. The Presbytery of Columbia to employ a missionary for two months.
4. Presbytery of Geneva to employ a missionary for three months.
5. Presbytery of Oneida to employ a missionary for three months.
6. Rev. Joshua Johnson for two months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Onondaga; and one month on the great bend of the Susquehanna.
7. Rev. Andrew Rawson for two months in the Holland purchase; and one month in New Connecticut.
8. Rev. John Davenport for two months. His route to be prescribed by the Presbytery of Onondaga.
9. Rev. Hugh Wallace for two months, in the Holland purchase.
10. Rev. Royall Phelps for three months, within the bounds and vicinity of the Presbytery of Cayuga.
11. Rev. Eliphalet Price for one month, in Dutchess county, state of New York.
12. Presbytery of Hudson to direct a mission of three months, on missionary ground within their limits; and to divide the time between the missionaries as they may judge most conducive to the interest of the mission.
13. Rev. Daniel C. Hopkins for two months. His route to be prescribed by the Committee of Missions of the Presbytery of Hudson.
14. Presbytery of New York to employ a missionary for three months, at discretion, in the county of West Chester, state of New York.
15. Presbytery of Jersey to employ a missionary for three months.
16. Presbytery of New Brunswick to employ a missionary or missionaries for three months.
17. Rev. John Gloucester for three months, to the blacks in Philadelphia; and one month to certain blacks associated for worship in the vicinity of Abington.
18. Rev. Thomas Hunt for one month, in the vicinity of Pittsburgh.
19. Rev. Moses Allen for two months, in Tyger's Valley, and on the Monongahela.
20. Rev. Timothy Alden for two months, in the counties of Erie, Crawford, and Warren, Pennsylvania.
21. Mr. John Reed for two months, between Canton and Cambridge, principally east of the Tuskerawa.

22. Rev. Joseph Anderson for four months, at discretion, in the state of Ohio, and in the Indiana Territory.

23. Rev. George Scott for two months, between Lake Erie and Geneva.

24. Rev. Joseph Stevenson for one month, in the county of Champlain, Ohio; and one month on the waters of Wheeling.

25. Rev. Alexander Cook for three months; one half of the time to be spent within the limits of the Presbyteries of Hartford and Lancaster; and the other half on the Monongahela, from about eighty or ninety miles above Pittsburgh.

26. Rev. Thomas Moore for three months, at discretion, within the limits of the Presbyteries of Hartford and Lancaster.

27. Rev. Johnston Eaton for two months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Erie.

28. Mr. John Redick for one month, within the limits of the Presbytery of Erie.

29. Rev. Thomas E. Hughes for one month, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hartford.

30. Rev. James Hughes for four months, in the vicinity of Urbana, and to the Indians in and about Lewistown.

31. Rev. John Boyd for six weeks, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Washington.

32. Presbytery of Washington to employ a missionary for three months.

33. Rev. Joseph S. Hughes for two months, on the waters of the Scioto, Bigbelly, Alum, and Whetstone.

34. Rev. William Hodge for two months, within the limits of the Presbytery of Muhlenburgh, in the counties of Robertson, Montgomery, Tennessee, and Christian, Kentucky.

35. Rev. William Dickey for two months, in the counties of Livingston, Caldwell, Muhlenburg, Ohio, Henderson, Hopkins, and Union, with the adjacent settlements along the Ohio river.

36. Rev. James M'Gready for three months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of West Tennessee. His route to be prescribed by Rev. Gideon Blackburn, and Rev. Robert Henderson.

37. Rev. John R. Moreland for three months, within the counties of Knox, and Rock Castle, Kentucky, and to continue his route through the back part of those counties, adjoining the line that divides Kentucky and East Tennessee.

38. Mr. . . . Crowell for six months, in Tennessee. His route to be prescribed by the missionary society of East Tennessee.

39. Mr. Archibald Steele for two months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Miami; and to receive directions as to his route from Rev. Mr. Wallace.

40. Rev. Joseph P. Howe for two months, in the lower part of Kentucky; and in the counties of Stewart, Dixon, and Montgomery, West Tennessee.

41. Rev. John Lyle for four months, in the counties of Bourbon, Harrison, Nicholas, and Fayette, Kentucky; and in this mission he will pay particular attention to the blacks.

42. Rev. William Robinson for one month, in the settlement of Whitewater.

43. Rev. William W. Martin for three months, in the counties of Clark, Estil, Montgomery Nicholas, &c., Kentucky.

44. Rev. Samuel Doake for one month, on that tract of country which lies between Engles' or Pepper's Ferry, on New River, and Dandridge, East Tennessee.

45. Rev. Samuel Tait for two months, within the limits of the Presbytery of Erie.

46. Rev. Nathan Hall for three months, within the bounds of the Transylvania Presbytery.

47. Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley for two months, within the same bounds.

48. Presbytery of Northumberland, to employ a missionary for two months.

49. Presbytery of Redstone, to employ a missionary for two months within their limits.

50. Rev. James Kemper for two months on the northern neck of Virginia. the whole to be spent on missionary ground.

51. Mr. Francis H. Porter for two months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Concord.

The committee recommend to the Assembly to appoint a committee for preparing a petition to Congress for a grant of a tract of land, to assist in conducting the Mission to the Indians, under the superintendence of the Rev. James Hughes; and to empower the Committee of Missions to purchase a section of land, if Congress should refuse to grant the prayer of the petition. A section will cost about $1200 or $1300. Should it be necessary at any time to sell the land, the committee are informed that it will no doubt produce more than present price. To enforce the petition of this Assembly, Mr. Hughes will forward one from the Indians for the same object.

The committee inform the Assembly that they design to print 2000 copies of the Shorter Catechism; and they wish the information to be given to the Presbyteries, that by applying to the Stated Clerk they will receive a portion of them.

It having been recommended by the Committee of Missions to appoint a committee to prepare a petition to the Congress of the United States, for a grant of a tract of land, to assist in conducting the Mission to the Indians in and about Lewistown, under the superintendence of the Rev. James Hughes; the Committee of Missions, together with Messrs. Elias B. Caldwell and Robert Monro, were appointed a committee for this purpose; but in case that Congress should refuse to grant the prayer of the petition, the Committee of Missions were empowered to purchase a section of land.

The committee appointed to prepare a petition to Congress on the subject of opening the mail on the Sabbath, reported, and the report was recommitted to the same committee.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*June* 1*st*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to prepare a petition to the Congress of the United States on the subject of opening the mail on the Sabbath day reported a draft of a petition, which being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The subscribers, inhabitants of the town of . . . . in the state of . . . . , beg leave respectfully to represent to the Congress of the United States, that in their apprehension, the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath is injurious to the morals and civil welfare of this nation. They do therefore pray, that such arrangements may be made as shall prevent the continuance of this evil.

In illustration of their views on this subject they beg leave to state that the Sabbath, according to their belief, is an ordinance of God, instituted from the beginning of the world, and always regarded by believers in revelation, as a blessing indispensable to the well being of mankind, both in the present life, and that which is to come.

That the Christian religion, which enjoins the observance of the Sabbath, is the religion generally professed by the people of this nation; and that the laws of many of the States do expressly prohibit such profanation of the Sabbath as is implied in the transportation of the mail. That the rest which the Sabbath provides is due to the inferior creation, on the ground of humanity, and to man himself on the ground both of humanity and policy. That the Sabbath contributes to increase the amount of productive labour, to promote science, civilization, peace, social order, and correct morality; inasmuch as it convenes the population of a nation one day in seven to hear the best moral precepts, enforced by the most powerful motives; and as it restrains mankind from those vices which destroy property, health, reputation, intellect, domestic peace, and national integrity and industry; thus preventing that ignorance and profligacy which tend to reduce the body of the people to poverty and slavery, by throwing the property and power of the nation into the hands of a few.

We cannot but observe also, that the Sabbath has been the principal means of upholding in the world the knowledge of God and salvation, and of preserving nations from the darkness and miseries of idolatry.

We are accustomed to consider also that our prosperity as a nation depends upon the smiles of heaven, and that the profanation of the Sabbath is calculated to awaken the displeasure of God, and bring down his judgments. With these views of the Sabbath, your petitioners are constrained to contemplate the transportation and opening of the mail on that day, with deep regret, as the great objects of the Sabbath are evidently defeated by these means, in respect to the multitude of persons who are withdrawn from its salutary instructions and restraints; to which evil we would add the powerful influence upon the community, of an example so inauspicious, so constantly occurring, so widely extended, and sanctioned by so high authority.

We must add likewise, that the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath is, in many places, a painful interruption to the solemnities of public worship.

Your petitioners are aware, that works of necessity and mercy are not incompatible with the sanctification of the Sabbath; but as government may, and actually do, employ expresses in cases which require special expedition, we cannot but consider the stated transportation of the mail, on the Sabbath, to be unnecessary, and a profanation of that holy day."

*Resolved*, That two thousand copies of the foregoing petition be printed and sent to the several Presbyteries; and that each Presbytery be directed to take order that the same be circulated for subscription in all the congregations under their care.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Andrew Hunter, Elias B. Caldwell, Esq., and Mr. Robert Monro, be a committee of correspondence and conference, for the purpose of soliciting the concurrence of other religious denominations with us, in petitioning Congress upon the subject of transporting the mail on the Sabbath.

*Resolved*, That an agent be appointed in each of the Presbyteries, to exert his influence in favour of the subscription within our bounds, and to correspond with the Committee of Correspondence and Conference, and that it be his duty to receive the petitions which may be subscribed, and forward them to Congress by the first day of January next.

*Resolved*, That the following persons be agents for the purpose of carrying the above resolution into effect, viz:

In the Presbytery of Cayuga—Rev. Royall Phelps, Sempronius, New York.

In the Presbytery of Onondaga—Rev. Jabez Chadwick, Pompey, N. York.
Geneva—Rev. Charles Mosher, Romulus, do.
Oneida—Rev. John Smith, Cooperstown, do.
Columbia—Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D. Lansingburgh, do.
Londonderry—Rev. Daniel Dana, Newburyport.
Albany—Rev. William Neill, D. D., Albany, New York.
Hudson—Rev. John Johnston, Newburgh, do.
New York—Rev. Gardiner Spring, New York.
Long Island—Rev. Aaron Woolworth, D. D. Bridgehampton, do.
Jersey—Rev. James Richards, Newark, New Jersey.
New Brunswick—Rev. George S. Woodhull, Cranberry, do.
Philadelphia—Robert Ralston, Esq. Philadelphia.
New Castle—Rev. John E. Latta, Christiana, Delaware.
Carlisle—Rev. Jeremiah Atwater, D. D., Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
Baltimore—Christopher Johnson, Esq. Baltimore.
Northumberland—Rev. John B. Patterson, Danville, Pennsylvania.
Huntingdon—Rev. James Linn, Belfont, do.
Redstone—Rev. Francis Herron, Pittsburgh, do.
Erie—Rev. Robert Johnston, Meadville, do.
Lancaster—Rev. John Wright, Lancaster, Ohio.
Hartford—Rev. Clement Vallandingham, New Lisbon, do.
Ohio—Rev. Matthew Brown, Washington, Pennsylvania.
Winchester—Rev. William Hill, Winchester, Virginia.
Muhlenburg—Rev. William Dickey, Salem, Kentucky.
West Tennessee—Rev. Gideon Blackburn, Franklin, Tennessee.
South Carolina—Rev. Thomas D. Baird, Varennes, South Carolina.
Hanover—Rev. John H. Rice, Richmond, Virginia.
Lexington—Rev. Conrad Speece, Staunton, do.
Hopewell—Rev. John Brown, D. D., Athens, Georgia.
West Lexington—Rev. James Blythe, Lexington, Kentucky.
Washington—Rev. Robert G. Wilson, Chillicothe, Ohio.
Union—Rev. Charles Coffin, D. D., Greenville, Tennessee.
Orange—Rev. Robert H. Chapman, Chapelhill, North Carolina.
Concord—Rev. James Hall, D. D., Statesville, do..
Abingdon—Rev. Stephen Bovelle, Abingdon, Virginia.
Transylvania—Rev. Thomas Cleland, Harrodsburgh, Kentucky.
Harmony—Rev. Aaron W. Leland, Charleston, South Carolina.
Miami—Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, Cincinnati, Ohio.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the committee appointed to report to the Assembly a correct method of procedure to be adopted relative to a report made by a former committee on the subject of disciplining baptized children, be discharged.

And they were accordingly discharged, and the subject was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Chester, in consequence of some circumstances occurring since his appointment as a delegate to the Associations of Connecticut and Massachusetts proper, gave in his resignation, which was accepted, and a nomination was made for a delegate to fill his place; and the election was made the order of the day for the afternoon.

The committee to which was referred the subject of appointing a day of fasting, reported, and their report being read, was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Dr. Blatchford and Mr. Gershom Williams.

The committee appointed to report to the Assembly agents to solicit donations in money and books for the Theological Seminary, and to designate their districts, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

That in their opinion each Presbytery should be considered as a district, and that the following persons should be appointed agents, viz:

In the Presbytery of Cayuga—Rev. Hezekiah N. Woodruff. Onondaga—Rev. Jabez Chadwick. Geneva—Rev. Charles Mosher. Oneida—Rev. John Smith and William Neill, D. D. Columbia—Rev. John Chester. Londonderry—Rev. Daniel Dana. Albany—Rev. William Neill, D. D., and Alexander Monteith. Hudson—Rev. John Johnston, and Ebenezer Grant. New York—Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., and James Richards. Long Island—Rev. Lathrop Thompson, and Asa Hillyer. Jersey—Rev. Gershom Williams, and Gardiner Spring. New Brunswick—Rev. David Comfort. Philadelphia—Rev. John McDowell, Rev. William Latta, and Robert Ralston, Esq. New Castle—Rev. John E. Latta. Carlisle—Rev. John Moody. Baltimore—Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, and Elias B. Caldwell, Esq. Huntingdon—Rev. John Coulter. Redstone—Rev. James Galbraith. Erie—Rev. Samuel Tait. Lancaster—Rev. John Wright. Hartford—Rev. Thomas E. Hughes. Ohio—Rev. Elisha McCurdy. Muhlenburg—Rev. William Dickey, and James McGready. West Tennessee—Rev. Robert Henderson. South Carolina—Rev. Thomas D. Baird. West Lexington—Rev. John Lyle, and James Blythe. Washington—Rev. James Hoge. Union—Rev. John M. Campbell. Orange—Rev. Robert H. Chapman. Concord—Rev. James Hall, D. D. Fayetteville—Rev. Jesse Turner. Transylvania—Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley, and Rev. Samuel K. Nelson. Harmony—Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D. Miami—Rev. Matthew G. Wallace, and Rev. Joshua L. Wilson. Hopewell—Rev. John Brown, D. D.

Your committee further report, that in their opinion the agents should be instructed to use their utmost exertions to promote the formation of societies for the accomplishment of the views of the Assembly on this important subject.

*Resolved*, That the necessary expenses of the above agents be defrayed out of the moneys collected by them.

*Resolved*, That the agents now and heretofore appointed to solicit contributions to the Theological Seminary, be careful to forward to the Secretary of the Board of Directors, the names and residence of donors to the Seminary.

Dr. Blatchford, and Mr. Richards, were appointed a committee to prepare and report to the Assembly the form of a certificate of the appointment of the agents, to be given to them, severally, as their commission.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia reported, and the book was approved to page 445.

The committee appointed to report to the Assembly the result of the reports received from the agents appointed to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

| | *Subscribed.* | *Paid.* | *Unpaid.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rev. Alexander Monteith received on subscription, ($154, included in that for 1813,) - - - | $270.00 | $70.00 | $200.00 |
| Rev. William Neill, D. D., (*on subscription of 1813, $5—and on do. for 1814, $25,) - - - | 65.00 | *30.00 | 35.00 |
| Rev. Henry Axtell, - - - - - - - | 55.00 | 55.00 | |
| Col. John Licklaen, his own donation, $100—by subscription, $7.25, - - - - - - - | 7.25 | 107.25 | |
| Rev. David Comfort, - - - - - - - | 4981.20 | 3092.70 | 1891.50 |
| Rev. James Muir, D. D., - - - - - - | 100.00 | 100.00 | |
| Rev. John E. Latta, legacy of William Minnes, $200—and heretofore subscribed $90, - - - | 90.00 | 290.00 | |
| Rev. James Hall, D. D., - - - - - - | 12.00 | 12.00 | |
| Rev. William Speer, - - - - - - - | 253.90 | 224.90 | 29.00 |
| Rev. Moses Waddel, D. D., his own donation $50, received—his congregation, $72.16, - - | 72.16 | 72.16 | |
| Rev. John Wright, on subscription of Rev. Jos. Hughes, | 20.00 | 20.00 | |
| Total received, Legacy, $200—Donations, $150, | $5929.51 | $4074.01 | $2155.50 |

The committee appointed to draught a pastoral letter to the churches under the care of the Assembly, in relation to the due observance of the Sabbath, reported the following, which being read and amended, was adopted, viz:

"*Dear Brethren*—From the printed report transmitted to you on the state of religion in our bounds, you will perceive the prosperity which God has vouchsafed to our churches the past year; and you will, we trust, unite with us in praise and thanksgiving to his throne for his rich and condescending mercy. It is our duty to rejoice in this manifestation of the divine favour, but let us rejoice with fear and trembling. Many causes still exist which threaten to cloud our prosperity, and to cover us with mourning. Lukewarmness, intemperance, profaneness, sabbath-breaking, are prevailing sins in our land, and call aloud for our vigilance, our exertions, and prayers.

While the Assembly would lift up a warning voice against every kind of iniquity, and recommend such measures as promise in any degree to correct the evils of which they complain, they deem it proper at this time to direct the attention of the churches more especially to the profanation of the Lord's day, a sin to which many are particularly exposed from the present calamitous state of our country.

Brethren, the God whom we worship is a jealous God—jealous for the honour of his institutions, but for none more than for that sacred day which he has commanded to be solemnly and exclusively appropriated to his service. Any profanation of this day is an immediate affront to his holiness, and when committed deliberately and openly, may be classed among those presumptuous sins against which he has given us the strongest proofs of his displeasure.

The Lord has instituted the Sabbath a sign between him and his people—a visible test of their sincerity. If they violate the duties of this day, or fold their hands in supineness and indifference when they are violated by others, he will regard their offerings as hypocritical and vain. This consideration deserves your serious attention, and ought to awaken and animate your zeal. But it is more important that you should reflect, that the sanctification of the Lord's day stands in close connection with all the institutions of religion, and with the dearest interests of society. The visible worship of God can no longer be maintained than a sacred regard to this day is secured. In every past period of the world it has been seen that a departure from the strict observance of the Sabbath has been followed by a general neglect of religious duty, and this by a relaxation both of public and private duty, deeply to be deplored as it respects the peace and good order of society, and the spiritual and eternal interests of mankind. We hold as important maxims, never to be lost sight of, that without the Sabbath there will be no religion—without religion there will be no morality—and that where morality, sound and correct morality, ceases to form the basis of the public manners, the strongest bonds of society are dissolved, and nothing is to be expected but mutual jealousy and hatred, with all the crimes and miseries to which this painful and disordered state of things will lead.

Desirous, brethren, to engage you in a vigorous and combined effort to maintain the authority and influence of the Sabbath, we, as a judicature of Christ's Church, address you, and earnestly entreat you to renew your attention to this subject. Take it into your serious and prayerful consideration, view it in all its extent and relations, mark its connection with the temporal and spiritual interests of mankind—its aspect towards present and future generations. What shall become of our children, whose spiritual and eternal destiny we should chiefly regard, if we suffer the holy Sabbath to be violated and its sacred influence lost?

Resolve then, brethren, for yourselves, and for those committed to your care, that you will strictly observe the duties of this day, doing nothing which is incompatible with that religious sanctification of it so minutely explained, and so solemnly enjoined, in the word of God. Let there be no coming in or going out among you, no bearing of burdens on the Lord's day. Piously abstain in thought, word, and deed, from all your worldly avocations and amusements, and let the whole of this consecrated time be a rest unto God, employed only in the public and private exercises of religion, except such portions of it as are obviously due to works of necessity and mercy.

Where it is prudent and practicable, we recommend that societies be formed for the purpose of mutual encouragement and vigilance, and especially for guarding the Sabbath against encroachments made upon it by those who are unhappily ignorant of its blessings, and regardless of its authority and design. We invite to this subject the attention of parents and guardians, of ministers and elders of the Church. We entreat every friend of the Redeemer's kingdom, every one who regards the welfare of society, whatever may be his capacity or relation, to exert his influence in promoting a strict and devout observance of the Lord's day.

Need we remind you, Christian brethren, of the solemn command of Jehovah, to 'remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy?' Need we call to your recollection the awful threatenings which he has denounced and executed against those who have voluntarily disregarded this command? You know the history of his providence; you know that for this very sin among others, his ancient people, the descendants of Abraham, were cast out of his sight, and their land made to enjoy that rest in desolation, which they had refused to consecrate to him in the observance of days prescribed for his worship. We conclude by bringing to your remembrance those gracious words of the prophet—'If thou turn away thy foot from polluting the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable, and shall honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words; then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.'"

It was recommended by the Assembly, that the ministers, on the day on which they read the foregoing letter, preach a sermon on the observance of the Sabbath.

Mr. Corning obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, an election was held for a delegate to attend the next meetings of the General Associations of Connecticut and Massachusetts proper, in the place of Mr. Chester, who had resigned, and the Rev. Alexander Monteith was duly elected a delegate to attend said Associations.

Drs. Neill and Nott were appointed a committee to make out supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Monteith during his necessary absence.

The committee appointed to prepare a form of a certificate for the agents for soliciting donations for the Theological Seminary, reported the following, which was adopted, viz:

"This certifies, that the bearer . . . . . . is appointed an agent to solicit donations in money and books within the bounds of the Presbytery of . . .

for the use of the Theological Seminary at Princeton; and of his diligence in this service he is to make report to the next General Assembly.

By order of the Assembly. *Stated Clerk.*"

The committee appointed to prepare and report a plan for forming societies to aid the funds of the Theological Seminary reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted and is as follows, viz:

"It is a fact well known, that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, instituted some time since a Theological Seminary, for the great and good purpose of securing to the Church of Christ a competent supply of learned and evangelical ministers. Their harvest is truly great, and greatly increasing, and the labourers few. The truth of this remark is established by the consideration, that four hundred organized congregations within their limits are not yet steadily supplied with gospel ordinances. Their missionary ground on the frontiers, as also among the Indians and blacks, is very extensive. While God in his providence is inclining an unusual number of our pious young men to consecrate their lives and talents to the service of the sanctuary, and the means of their classical education, by the exertion of the friends of Zion, are constantly increasing, shall they be left unprepared for the great work of the Lord for the want of proper theological instruetion? Shall they long in vain for this holy employment? Shall so great a portion of our churches, and our frontier settlements be suffered to lie desolate and in ruins, when the means of qualifying them for this employment are obviously within our power?

It is conceived that no man who loves his country, or who loves our Lord Jesus Christ, and the souls of men in sincerity, can want motives to induce him to lend his aid in accomplishing an object so immensely important.

With sanguine hopes of success, therefore, the General Assembly proffer their claims to the charity of those who feel an interest in the support of our invaluable civil and political institutions. Every free government constituted like ours, depends primarily and essentially for its existence on the moral principles and habits of the people. Where the word of life is not statedly preached, and the ordinances of the gospel administered, the Sabbath will be profaned; and experience proves uniformly and unequivocally, that idleness, intemperance, gambling, and ungovernable licentiousness both in principles and conduct are the inevitable consequences. Will then the lovers of rational liberty, will the friends of our beloved country, refuse to contribute a pittance of the substance which God has entrusted to them, to so noble an object? to secure to themselves and their children, and even to their children's children, the inestimable privileges which were purchased by the sufferings, and transmitted to them by the wisdom and labours of their fathers. It is confidently believed that few will be found, who duly appreciate the worth of their own souls and of the souls of their fellow sinners, who will not cheerfully do something for Christ; something to advance the cause of his heritage, when they consider that it is He who loved them, and died to redeem them. Remember, brethren, that all you possess is the Lord's; and if you devote a portion of what he has given you to his service, he can easily increase the remainder an hundred fold. The righteous giveth and spareth not. Remember also the divine promise, that he that giveth to the poor shall not lack; and that our Saviour himself hath declared, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." It is but little that is asked of you. Come then, beloved brethren, cast your mite into the treasury of the Lord; and the blessed effects of your charity, it is trusted, will be experienced by thousands when you and your children shall be sleeping in your graves.

The General Assembly earnestly recommend to the several congregations in their connection the formation of societies for the above purpose.

And they solicit especially ministers and elders strenuously to exert themselves to form one such society within their own congregation. The Assembly cannot but flatter themselves that their recommendation will be generally regarded; and they are confident, should this be the fact, that ample means will be furnished for the accomplishment of their object.

They submit therefore the following plan as one most likely in their opinion to meet with success:

Article 1. This Society shall be denominated . . . . . Society for aiding the Theological Seminary of the General Assembly.

2. Any person may become a member of this Society by subscribing and paying the sum of one dollar, and may continue a member by paying the same sum annually. And any person by paying at one time the sum of twenty dollars, may become a member for life.

3. The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and a committee of three persons, whose duty it shall be to solicit subscriptions to this institution, and to collect the subscriptions which shall not have been regularly paid into the Treasury.

4. There shall be an annual meeting of the Society, at which time the officers shall be chosen by ballot, for the ensuing year, and a clergyman appointed to preach a sermon to the Society at their next annual meeting.

5. The treasurers of the several societies shall pay annually to the Treasurer of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are, such sums as by them shall have been collected, to be by him transmitted to the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly."

The committee to which was referred the consideration of the propriety of appointing a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That whereas, fasting is a known duty of Christianity, and sanctioned by the example of our Lord, and of the Church in all ages; whereas, during the past season, several parts of our country have been visited with various judgments, whereby multitudes of our fellow-citizens have been involved in sorrow, and many have been brought down to death; and whereas *sin*, which is the procuring cause of all our calamities, still greatly abounds in our land, therefore,

*Resolved*, 1. That we as a people are loudly called to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and to repent in dust and ashes.

2. That it be recommended to all the churches under our care to observe the third Thursday of August next, as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer. And on that occasion, that we do unitedly confess our sins before Almighty God, and in the name of the great Redeemer, implore his pardoning mercy, and a sanctified use of all the dispensations of his providence; that we supplicate the throne of grace for a plenteous effusion of the Holy Spirit, a revival of real religion throughout all the churches, the blessing of God upon our beloved country, and that he fill the world with his glory.

And inasmuch as it has pleased God in several parts of our country, in a great degree, to mitigate the strokes of his wrath, and moreover in many glorious instances to grant a season of refreshing from his presence, whereby the hearts of his children have been made glad, and their graces revived, and by which many precious souls have been happily brought into covenant with God, it is recommended, that with our petitions we mingle praise and thanksgiving for such manifestations of the tender mercies and loving-kindness of the Lord."

*Resolved*, That five hundred copies of this report be printed as soon as practicable, and that Dr. Blatchford superintend the printing.

An overture for forming a general Bible Society was made, and it was, on motion,

*Resolved*, That the subject of this overture be indefinitely postponed.

An overture for the erection of a suitable building for the Assembly, in which to hold its sessions, was made; and Messrs. Jacob J. Janeway, George C. Potts, Robert Ralston, Robert Smith, Jonathan Smith, John Connelly, Thomas Latimer, and Charles Chauncey, were appointed to take the subject into consideration, and if they think it expedient, and find it practicable to do it without drawing upon the funds of the Assembly, the committee are authorized to have said building erected, and were directed to report to the next Assembly the result of their attention to the business.

The following persons were chosen and appointed to serve as a Standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia and its vicinity, Rev. Drs. Blair, Green, Alexander, and Wilson; Rev. Messrs. Janeway, Potts, and Skinner; Messrs. Boudinot, Hazard, Connelly, Haslett, and Robert Smith.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. David Higgins.

Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Jonas Coe.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, Rev. James Richards.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. Robert Cathcart.

Of the Synod of Virginia, Rev. John H. Rice.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. James Hughes.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe.

Of the Synod of Ohio, Rev. Robert G. Wilson.

Of the Synod of North Carolina, Rev. James McRee, D. D.

Of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D.

At the request of the Stated Clerk, for his direction on the subject, it was agreed by the Assembly, that the following are the documents which were before the Assembly in the trial of the appeal of the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church, viz:

1. The Session's Appeal.
2. The minute of the Synod of Philadelphia, affirming the decision of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.
3. The decision of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.
4. The petition of the people of said church to Presbytery for redressing the evil of which the people complain. And,
5. The minutes of the congregational meeting, and which preceded the decision of the Presbytery, viz:

1. The minutes of the meeting called to answer a question proposed by Session.
2. The minutes of the meeting which was held on adjournment, and appointed a committee to convene a congregational meeting for electing a pastor.
3. The minutes of the meeting at which an illegal call was taken.

The committee to which was referred the subject of admitting to communion members of the Methodist church, reported, and their report being read, it was

*Resolved*, That it be indefinitely postponed.

The committee appointed to make the extracts from the minutes of this Assembly to be printed, were authorized to employ an agent in this city to attend to the forwarding of the extracts to the several Presbyteries.

Mr. John Johnston obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till half-past 8 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*June 2d, half-past 8 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

*Resolved,* That two thousand copies of the pastoral letter be printed as soon as practicable, and that Messrs. Baird and Richards superintend the printing.

The committee appointed to report to the Assembly the result of the inquiry made of the Presbyteries as to the number of Bibles wanted, reported, and their report being read, it was directed that it be transmitted to the Bible Society of this city for their information.

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain if any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was determined that none be reported to the Presbyteries this year as delinquents in the above case.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of twenty-five dollars to Joseph Jacobs, for twelve and a half days' service rendered the Assembly.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk, agreeably to the rate fixed by a former Assembly, and for stationery furnished by him for the use of the Assembly.

*Resolved,* That this Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, the third Thursday in May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, therefore, dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed by the Constitution of the Church. Concluded with prayer.

SUMMARY FOR 1814.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Geneva, | 22 | 4 | 31 | 941 | $ 86 |
| Cayuga, | 10 | — | 17 | 443 | — |
| Onondaga, | 13 | — | 17 | 1215 | 31 |
| Oneida, | 19 | 1 | 17 | 647 | 270 |
| Albany, | 9 | 4 | 17 | 1253 | 224 |
| Columbia, | 14 | 2 | 19 | 545 | 215 |
| Londonderry, | 12 | 2 | 13 | 507 | 123 |
| Long Island, | 12 | 1 | 18 | 573 | 110 |
| Hudson, | 22 | — | 32 | 1979 | 311 |
| New York, | 10 | — | 10 | 1430 | 430 |
| Jersey, | 24 | 4 | 26 | 4073 | 537 |
| New Brunswick, | 26 | 5 | 37 | 1651 | 378 |
| Philadelphia, | 25 | 1 | 34 | 1662 | 847 |
| New Castle, | 23 | 16 | 48 | 2001 | 157 |
| Carlisle, | 21 | 2 | 39 | 1804 | 206 |
| Baltimore, | 10 | — | 8 | 664 | 139 |
| Huntingdon, | 9 | — | 25 | 1186 | 35 |
| Northumberland, | 5 | — | 15 | 562 | 15 |
| Redstone, | 20 | — | 28 | 497 | 63 |
| Ohio, | 25 | 1 | 40 | 2899 | 67 |
| Hartford, | 15 | — | 34 | 1240 | 40 |
| Lancaster, | 10 | — | 33 | 512 | 29 |
| Erie, | 10 | 2 | 38 | 608 | 44 |
| Transylvania, | 14 | 1 | 25 | 648 | 78 |
| West Lexington, | 9 | 1 | 21 | 288 | 86 |
| Washington, | 13 | — | 28 | 1140 | 70 |
| Miami, | 6 | 3 | 20 | 491 | 57 |
| Union, | 7 | 1 | 13 | 407 | 24 |
| Muhlenburg, | 7 | 1 | 15 | 318 | 80 |
| West Tennessee, | 10 | 2 | 35 | 663 | — |
| Hanover. No report. | | | | | |
| Lexington, | 14 | 3 | 28 | 467 | 59 |
| Winchester, | 9 | — | 14 | 489 | 347 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | | |

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orange, | 10 | 3 | 11 | 1112 | 101 |
| Concord, | 13 | 2 | 45 | 824 | 88 |
| Fayetteville, | 8 | — | 12 | — | — |
| South Carolina, | 10 | 2 | 26 | 893 | 57 |
| Hopewell. No report. | | | | | |
| Harmony, | 15 | 3 | 27 | 1135 | 137 |
| Total, | 511 | 57 | 916 | 37,767 | $5,541 |

## 1815.

Philadelphia, *May* 18*th*, 1815.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. James Inglis, D. D., the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from 1 Cor. ii. 2: "For I am determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

Presbytery of Cayuga—The Rev. Seth Smith.

Presbytery of Onondaga—The Rev. Joshua Lane. Mr. Selah Munson, elder.

Presbytery of Geneva—The Rev. Henry Axtell, Rev. Moses Young.

Presbytery of Oneida—The Rev. Calvin Bushnell, Rev. Henry Dwight. Messrs. Ebenezer Dod, Joseph Blake, elders.

Presbytery of Columbia—The Rev. John Younglove, Rev. Samuel Tomb. Messrs. Thomas B. Cooke, Samuel White, elders.

Presbytery of Albany—The Rev. William Neill, D. D., Rev. Stephen Porter. Mr. Nehemiah B. Basset, elder.

Presbytery of Hudson—The Rev. James J. Ostrom, Rev. John Clark, and Rev. Eliphalet Price. Mr. Cornelius J. Blauvelt, elder.

Presbytery of New York—The Rev. William Boardman and Rev. Gardiner Spring. Dr. John R. B. Rodgers, Mr. William Leverick, elders.

Presbytery of Long Island—The Rev. Ebenezer Phillips, and Rev. Ezra King.

Presbytery of Jersey—The Rev. Thomas Picton, Rev. John McDowell, Rev. Barnabas King, and Rev. John G. Bergen. Messrs. Benjamin Smith, Stephen Hays, and Benjamin Cory, elders.

Presbytery of New Brunswick—The Rev. Robert Finley, Rev. Isaac V. Brown, and Rev. Jacob Kirkpatrick. Messrs. Henry Southard, Benjamin Hayden, and John Muirhead, elders.

Presbytery of Philadelphia—The Rev. Samuel Blair, D. D., Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Rev. William Latta, Rev. James Patterson, and Rev. John Joyce. Messrs. William Haslett, John McMullin, John Connelly, and Dr. Francis G. Brewster, elders.

Presbytery of New Castle—The Rev. John E. Latta, Rev. Joseph Copes, Rev. Andrew H. Russell, Rev. James Latta, and Rev. John N. C. Grier. Messrs. Hugh Gemmill, and James Steen, elders.

Presbytery of Carlisle—The Rev. Robert Cathcart, Rev. Amos A. McGinley, Rev. David McConnaughy, and Rev. Alexander Boyd. Mr. William Reynolds, elder.

Presbytery of Baltimore—The Rev. Thomas L. Birch, and Rev. James Inglis, D. D.

Presbytery of Northumberland—The Rev. John Bryson.

Presbytery of Huntingdon—The Rev. John Hutchison.

Presbytery of Redstone—The Rev. William Wylie, and Rev. James Guthrie. Mr. Joseph Baldridge, elder.

Presbytery of Erie—The Rev. Johnston Eaton.

Presbytery of Lancaster—The Rev. John Wright, and Rev. James Culbertson.

Presbytery of Grand River—The Rev. Thomas Barr.

Presbytery of Hartford—The Rev. Nathan B. Derrow.

Presbytery of Ohio—The Rev. Joseph Patterson, Rev. William McMillan, and Rev. Andrew Wylie.

Presbytery of Winchester—The Rev. William Hill. Mr. John Mark, elder.

Presbytery of Hanover—The Rev. John D. Paxton.

Presbytery of Lexington—The Rev. George Bourne.

Presbytery of Washington—The Rev. Robert G. Wilson.

Presbytery of Orange—The Rev. William Paisley.

Presbytery of Concord—The Rev. James Hall, D. D.

Presbytery of South Carolina—The Rev. Hugh Dickson.

Presbytery of Fayetteville—The Rev. Colin McIver.

Presbytery of Miami—The Rev. James Welsh.

The following delegates from the different Associations connected with this Assembly, also attended, and having produced certificates of their appointment, they took their seats as members, viz:

Of the General Association of the State of Connecticut, the Rev. Royal Tyler, Rev. Samuel Merwin, and Rev. Heman Humphrey.

Of the General Association of Massachusetts proper, the Rev. Samuel Osgood, and Rev. Evan Johns.

Of the General Association of New Hampshire, the Rev. Seth Payson, D. D.

Of the General Convention of Vermont, the Rev. Chester Wright.

The General Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator and Temporary Clerk; and the Rev. William Neill, D. D., was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart was elected Temporary Clerk.

The Rev. Charles Cummins, of the Presbytery of Hudson, having neglected to bring his commission with him, but sufficient evidence appearing that Mr. Cummins had been duly commissioned, he was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

The minutes of the last Assembly were read.

The Rev. Messrs. Axtell, Tomb, Spring, McGinley, William Wylie, Paisley, Merwin, Johns, and Hill; and Messrs. Rodgers, Brewster, Baldridge, and Basset, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

*Resolved*, That a free conversation on the state of religion be the order of the day for Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer, and other religious exercises; and that Dr. Blair, and Messrs. Freeman, and William Latta, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Porter, Ostrom, and Blauvelt, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva.

That Messrs. Boardman, Spring, and Rodgers, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

That Messrs. Joyce, Patterson, and Haslett, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

That Messrs. William Wylie, Finley, and Smith, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

That Messrs. Dwight, Bushnell, and Blake, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

That Dr. Inglis, and Messrs. McDowell, and Southard, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

That Messrs. McMillan, Eaton, and Gemmill, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

That Messrs. Younglove, Price, and Cook, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina.

That Messrs. Boyd, James Latta, and Reynolds, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia.

And that Messrs. Brown, Kirkpatrick, and Hayden, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 19*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and Mr. Potts, were appointed a committee to make extracts from the minutes of this Assembly to be printed.

The Presbyteries being called upon, reported the sums they had severally collected for the Commissioners' Fund, and Messrs. Brown, Hays, and Mark, were appointed a committee to make a distribution of said fund, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

The report of the Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry was called for, and Dr. Inglis, and Messrs. McDowell and Smith were appointed a committee to prepare a statement, exhibiting a general view of these reports, and the decisions of the Assembly upon them severally; but the members of the Assembly not being prepared in general to report, the business was made the order of the day for the afternoon.

A number of copies of the printed extracts from the minutes of the General Association of Massachusetts proper, were presented to the Assembly.

The receiving of the Synodical and Presbyterial reports was made the order of the day for the afternoon, and Messrs. Wilson, Picton, and Cummins, were appointed a committee to examine these reports when they shall be received, and read to the Assembly those parts which the committee may think necessary to be read, and to prepare a statement to be transcribed into the compendious view.

An error of some importance having occurred in the printed extracts of last year, by which it was stated that the Synod of Virginia and the Presbytery of Winchester had made no report, which was contrary to fact, as appeared from the written minutes of the last Assembly—on motion therefore, it was

Ordered, That this mistake be corrected in the extracts of this year, and that as these reports were not printed last year, together with the rest, they should be entered at large in the extracts of this year.

Upon inquiry it appeared, that the Presbyteries had in general attended to the direction of the last Assembly, requiring them to take order in procuring subscribers to petitions, and forwarding them to Congress on the subject of preventing the transportation and opening the mail on the Sabbath.

The Committee of Overtures laid before the Assembly an overture from the Presbytery of Grand river, on the subject of petitioning Congress again on the aforesaid subject, and the overture was committed to Drs. Payson and Hall, and Messrs. McDowell, White, and Southard.

A reference from the Presbytery of Fayetteville on the subject of excommunicating a person who had been baptized, but had not been received into full communion with the church, was overtured, and was committed to Dr. Miller, Messrs. Finley, Freeman, Cook, and Haslett.

An overture from the Synod of Ohio on the subject of slavery was laid before the Assembly, and committed to Messrs. Osgood, Wilson, McIver, Dickson, and Connelly.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to dispose of the interest due on the moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, reported, that agreeably to their appointment, they met with a committee of said Trustees, and appropriated the said interest, amounting to thirty-three dollars and eighty-one cents, to the use of a young man in the College, studying with a view to the gospel ministry.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. Isaac V. Brown and William C. Schenck, be a committee to dispose of the aforesaid interest for the ensuing year, and report on the subject to the next Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

Mr. Thomas Davis, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Redstone, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read he took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day for the afternoon, reports were received from the several Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth.

It being also the order of the day for this afternoon, the Synodical and Presbyterial reports were received. No report was received from the Synods of Pittsburgh, South Carolina, and Georgia. Presbyterial reports were received from some of the Presbyteries which compose these Synods.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That these records have been kept with commendable accuracy, and that the proceedings of that Synod be approved, with the exception of having invited several ministers to take their seats as corresponding members, without describing the ecclesiastical body to which such ministers belong."

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 20*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to prepare a minute stating the attention which the Presbyteries appeared to have paid to the resolutions of the Assembly in relation to the selection of young men for the ministry, and providing funds for their education, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That it appeared from the several votes of the house on the subject, that the Presbyteries of Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Columbia, Albany, Hudson, New York, Long Island, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, Baltimore, Redstone, Erie, Ohio, Hartford, Winchester, Hanover, Lexington, Washington, Orange, Concord, South Carolina, and Miami, have fully attended to the recommendations of the Assembly.

That the Presbyteries of Geneva, Northumberland, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Grand River, and Fayetteville, have not carried the recommendation of the Assembly into effect, but have assigned such reasons as were satisfactory to the Assembly.

That official Presbyterial reports on this subject were received from the Presbyteries of Oneida, Columbia, Hudson, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, Huntingdon, Redstone, Lancaster, Hartford, Winchester, Hanover, and Orange.

That the reports of the other Presbyteries reporting, although in writing, were inofficial and informal, which the Assembly hope will not be the case on the part of any Presbytery in future.

That no reports have been received from the Presbyteries of Hopewell, West Lexington, Muhlenburg, West Tennessee, Union, Abingdon, Transylvania, and Harmony.

And that from the information derived from the whole of the reports submitted on this subject, it appears that there are at present forty young men of the description contemplated by the Assembly, under the care of the Presbyteries.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and the book was approved to page 327.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, and the book was approved to page 472.

The agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, were called upon to report what they had severally done pursuant to their appointment, and Messrs. McDowell and Ostrom were appointed a committee to prepare a statement of the result of their agency, and to report it to the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That it be also the duty of this committee to devise, and to report to the Assembly, a plan to be adopted for the future increase of the funds of the Theological Seminary.

And with a view to this, Dr. Miller, and Messrs. Bourne, Freeman, and Joseph Patterson, were added to the committee.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported, and the book was approved to page 137.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva, reported, and the book was approved to page 61.

The delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Convention of Vermont, reported that he attended. The next General Convention is to meet on the second Tuesday of September next.

The Rev. Gershom Williams, one of the delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of New Hampshire, reported that he attended, and that the Rev. Messrs. Asa McFarland, D. D., William F. Rowland, John H. Church, Eli Smith, Seth Payson, D. D., Abijah Wines, Roswell Shurtleff, Drury Fairbank, and Moses Bradford, were appointed to certify the regular standing of ministers and candidates, who may wish to travel into different parts of the United States; and that the next annual meeting of the Association is to be at Keene, on the third Tuesday of September next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio, reported, and the book was approved to page 33.

Forty copies of a pamphlet of an address of the Charitable Society for the education of indigent pious young men for the ministry of the gospel, were presented by Mr. Merwin to the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to said society, and that one copy of the pamphlet be given to each Presbytery under the care of the Assembly.

Dr. Brewster resigned his seat to Mr. John W. Scott, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly, to superintend the reprinting of a number of copies of the printed extracts from the minutes of the Assembly since its commencement, not being prepared to make a regular report, the business was committed to Drs. Miller, Janeway, and Mr. Finley.

*Resolved*, That no election be held this year for Trustees of the General Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

The Rev. Sylvester Dana, delegate from the General Association of New Hampshire, appeared in the Assembly, and a certificate of his appointment being read, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Robert Ralston, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read at a former session, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Reuben Hopkins, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Hudson, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to receive communications on the subject of the state of religion; and Dr. Inglis, and Messrs. Humphrey, and McIver, were appointed a committee to prepare a connected narrative of the information which may be received on the subject, and lay it before the Assembly. After considerable progress made in the business, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Grier resigned his seat to the Rev. John D. Perkins, the alternate mentioned in their commission; and Mr. Perkins being present, took his seat as a member.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual account, as settled and approved by the Committee of the Trustees; and it was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

The business left unfinished in the morning was resumed and finished.

The report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary was read, and committed to Dr. Hall, and Messrs. Hill, Boardman, Freeman, and Connelly, who were directed to report to the Assembly those particulars which require the attention of the Assembly.

Mr. Gemmill obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The Committee of Missions appeared in the house, and commenced the reading of their first report. After some progress made in the business, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. David Watson, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of Northumberland, appeared in the house, and his commission having been read at a former session, he took his seat as a member.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. James Richards for the missionary sermon which, by their appointment, he preached last evening.

A petition from the Synod of Ohio, praying that an alteration of the line dividing that Synod from the Synod of Kentucky, so that the Ohio river shall be the line dividing the two aforesaid Synods, was overtured. The prayer of the petition was granted; it being understood that the connection now subsisting between the congregation of Cabin Creek and the Rev. William Williamson, be not thereby affected, agreeably to the petition of the elders of said congregation, which had been forwarded to the Assembly and read.

An appeal by the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city from a decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, was overtured.

*Resolved*, That the consideration of this overture be postponed.

The term of time for which the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary were elected having elapsed, a nomination was made for Directors to form a new Board, and the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow.

The Committee of Missions finished the reading of their first report, and it was committed to Messrs. William Wylie, and Andrew K. Russel, who were directed to report to the Assembly those particulars in the report which require the attention of the Assembly.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for the Concert of Prayer, reported, and their report was laid on the table for the inspection of the persons appointed to perform the several exercises.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That the plan of the Theological Seminary, article 1, sect. 2., be amended, so as to read thus:

The General Assembly shall choose a Board of Directors, consisting of twenty-one ministers and nine ruling elders, by whom the Seminary shall be inspected and conducted. Of this number, one-third, or seven ministers and three elders, shall be chosen annually, to continue in office three years. And if any vacancy shall occur in the Board, by death, resignation, or incapacity to serve, the Assembly may annually fill up such vacancy.

*Resolved*, That as the whole number of the Directors are to be elected at this time, the seven ministers and the three elders who have the greatest number of votes, be considered as elected for three years; the next highest seven ministers and three elders, for two years; and the next highest seven ministers and three elders, for one year.

*Resolved*, further, That if in thus classing the Directors, any should be found to have an equal number of votes, they be classed according to seniority in office.

*Resolved*, That it be the duty of the Board of Directors every year, in their report to the Assembly, to give a list of the Directors whose term of service may have expired, as well as of those whose seats may have become vacant by death, resignation, or incapacity to serve.

Mr. John McMullin resigned his seat to Mr. Thomas Latimer, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

Mr. Bourne brought before the Assembly a paper, which the Committee of Overtures had decided not to overture, signed by several individuals in communion with the Presbyterian Church, some of them ruling elders, requesting advice in relation to the proper manner of dealing with members of the church who retain people of colour in slavery.

This paper was read, and the subject being for some time discussed, it was referred to the committee appointed to report to the Assembly on an overture from the Synod of Ohio on the subject of slavery.

The appeal from the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, was made the order of the day for the afternoon.

The committee appointed to report on the overture relative to disciplining a person who had been baptized, but had not been admitted to full communion, reported, and the consideration of their report was postponed till tomorrow morning.

The committee appointed to examine the the records of the Synod of Kentucky, reported, and the book was approved to page 86.

Agreeably to a standing rule, nominations were made for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, and the election of these delegates was made the order of the day for the afternoon.

The following persons were chosen, and appointed to serve as a Standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia, and its vicinity, Drs. Blair, Green, Alexander, Wilson, and Janeway; Rev. Messrs. Potts, and Skinner; and Messrs. Boudinot, Hazard, Connelly, Haslet, and Robert Smith.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. David Higgins.
Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Jonas Coe.
Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, Rev. James Richards.
Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. Robert Cathcart.
Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. Elisha McCurdy.
Of the Synod of Virginia, Rev. John H. Rice.
Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe.
Of the Synod of Ohio, Rev. Robert G. Wilson.
Of the Synod of North Carolina, Rev. James McRee, D. D.
Of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. James F. Armstrong appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read at a former session, he took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day for the afternoon, an election was held for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, and the following persons were duly chosen to attend, viz:

The Rev. James Buchanan, Rev. William Boardman, and Rev. Daniel A. Clark, to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut.

The Rev. James Buchanan, and Rev. Daniel A. Clark, to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Massachusetts proper; and Rev. William Boardman was appointed an alternate to whichever of the delegates may fail to attend, if either should fail.

The Rev. Isaac V. Brown, and Rev. Stephen Porter, were chosen to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire.

And the Rev. Isaac V. Brown to attend the next meeting of the General Convention of Vermont; and in case of his failure to attend, the Rev. Stephen Porter was appointed his alternate.

The Rev. Henry R. Wilson was appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Buchanan, the second Sabbath of June; Rev. Joseph Brady, to supply it the third Sabbath of June; Rev. James Snodgrass, the fourth Sabbath of June; and the Rev. William Ker, the first Sabbath of July.

Dr. Romeyn was appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Boardman the third Sabbath of June; and the Rev. Gardiner Spring to supply it the fourth Sabbath of June.

The Presbytery of New Brunswick were directed to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Brown; and the Presbytery of Albany to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Porter, during their necessary attention to their respective delegations.

Mr. Finley resigned his seat to the Rev. William C. Schenck, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

Mr. Southard obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The appeal from the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, being the order of the day for the afternoon, was called up. After the parties had been heard at full length, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Francis D. Janvier appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read at a former session, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. William Latta resigned his seat to the Rev. John Jones, the principal mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Jones being present took his seat as a member.

Dr. Blair resigned his seat to the Rev. George W. Janvier, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Janvier being present took his seat as a member.

The appeal of the Session of the Third Presbyterian Church in this city, from the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia, affirming a decision of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, reversing a decision of the Session of the aforesaid church, pursuant to the appeal of Mr. David McClure, from the decision of said Session, in which decision the Session declare that, "they adjudge that Mr. David McClure, according to the rules of the Presbyterian Church, stands guilty of slandering his brother," was called up, it being agreed that the members of the Synod who had dissented from the decision of the Synod in the case, should be allowed to speak on that subject, and that the parties should be again heard. The former therefore spoke at considerable length, and the latter were heard till they declared themselves satisfied.

*Resolved*, That the parties in the cause be considered as withdrawn from the Assembly.

The documents on the subject having been read, it was moved and seconded that the decision of the Synod of Philadelphia in the case be affirmed. After a full discussion of the subject by the Assembly, the question was determined in the affirmative, and the decision of the Synod was affirmed.

It being the order of the day, the election was held for a Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary. The ballots being taken were committed to Messrs. McDowell, Spring, Hopkins, and Cook, to read them, and to report to the Assembly the number of the votes given for the several candidates.

The committee to which was referred the subject of procuring the erection of a building in which the Assembly may hold their sessions, reported; and their report being read was committed to Drs. Miller, Inglis, and Janeway, and Messrs. McDowell, and Ralston.

The committee to which was referred the petition of the Synod of Ohio, concerning the buying and selling of slaves, together with the request of several elders for advice on the same subject, reported; and their report was accepted. The report having been amended, a motion was made and seconded, that it be adopted. This motion being under discussion, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Aaron W. Leland and the Rev. John Johnston, two of the delegates appointed by the last General Assembly to attend the General Association of Connecticut, reported that they attended, and that the next meeting of this Association is to be held in Danbury, the third Tuesday in June next.

The delegates appointed by the last General Assembly to attend the General Association of Massachusetts proper, reported that they attended, and that the next meeting of this Association is to be on the last Tuesday in June next.

The connected narrative on the state of religion was read, and after several alterations and amendments had been recommended, it was recommitted to the same committee, who were directed to make the alterations which may appear to be proper, and to bring in the narrative to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to petition Congress on the subject of obtaining a certain tract of land, were continued.

The committee to which was referred the subject of petitioning Congress with a view to the preventing of the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath, reported, and their report being read was accepted, and the consideration of it was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

The consideration of the report of the committee on slavery, which had been left unfinished in the morning, was resumed, and the report was recommitted to the same committee, with the substitution of Mr. Brown in the place of Mr. McIver, who had resigned.

The committee to which was referred the first report of the Committee of Missions, to select from it the particulars which require the attention of Assembly, reported, and their report being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That the Trustees be directed to issue warrants in favour of the following missionaries, for the sums annexed to their names, viz:

The Rev. Ashbel Parmelee, $36.20. Rev. John Younglove, 35.48. Rev. Asahel Stone, 80.00. Rev. David R. Dixon, 55.08. Rev. Oliver Whetmore, 107.07. Rev. Andrew Rawson, 73.00. Rev. John Davenport, 22.50. Rev. Hugh Wallace, 30.28. Rev. Royall Phelps, 80.00. Rev. Eliphalet Price, 7.00. Rev. Daniel C. Hopkins, 33.91. Rev. Joshua Spalding, 60.48. Rev. Benjamin B. Stockton, 120.00. Rev. Joseph Anderson, 134.80. Rev. George Scott, 78.50. Rev. Joseph Stephenson, 48.00. Rev. Thomas Moore, 95.30. Rev. Johnston Eaton, 12.38. Rev. Thomas E. Hughes, 35.00. Rev. James Hughes, 120.00. Rev. John Boyd, 16.50. Rev. William Hodge, 20.63. Rev. William Dickey, 29.75. Rev. James McGready, 63.00. Rev. A. Steele, 72.75. Rev. John Lyle, 120.00. Rev. William Robinson, 40.00. Rev. Samuel W. Doak, 24.97. Rev. Samuel Tait, 49.95. Rev. Nathan Hall, 63.00. Rev. John Bryson, 63.40. Rev. James Adams, 46.21.

The committee appointed on the subject of disciplining a person who had been baptized, but had not been admitted to the Lord's table, reported, and their report being read, a motion was made and seconded, to adopt it. The subject was discussed at considerable length, but the question on the motion was not taken.

Messrs. Spring and Hays obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to count the votes for Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported, and from their report it appeared that the following persons were elected, and they are therefore declared duly elected as a Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, as hereafter specified, agreeably to a resolution of this Assembly, viz:

*For three years.*

Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., Rev. William Neill, D. D., Rev. John McDowell, Rev. James Richards, Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., Rev. Robert Finley, Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, D. D., Mr. Robert Ralston, Dr. John R. B. Rodgers, Mr. Samuel Bayard.

*For two years.*

Rev. Gardiner Spring, Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., Rev. David Comfort, Rev. John E. Latta, Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., Rev. James Hall, D. D., Rev. Francis Herron, Mr. William Haslett, Mr. Divie Bethune, Mr. Robert Lenox.

*For one year.*

Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., Rev. Asa Hillyer, Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Rev. Henry Dwight, Rev. James Inglis, D. D., Rev. James Blythe, Rev. John Chester, Mr. John Neilson, Mr. John Vancleve, Mr. Zechariah Lewis.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors meet this morning, immediately after the adjournment of the Assembly, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

The committee to which was committed the report of the committee to which the petition of some elders, who entertain conscientious scruples on the subject of holding slaves, together with that of the Synod of Ohio, concerning the buying and selling of slaves, had been referred, reported, and their report being read and amended, is as follows, viz:

"The General Assembly have repeatedly declared their cordial approbation of those principles of civil liberty which appear to be recognized by the Federal and State governments in these United States. They have expressed their regret that the slavery of the Africans, and of their descendants, still continues in so many places, and even among those within the pale of the Church, and have urged the Presbyteries under their care to adopt such measures as will secure at least to the rising generation of slaves, within the bounds of the Church, a religious education, that they may be prepared for the exercise and enjoyment of liberty, when God in his providence may open a door for their emancipation. The committee refer said petitioners to the printed extracts of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, for the year 1787, on this subject, republished by the Assembly in 1793, and also to the extracts of the minutes of the Assembly for 1795, which last are in the following words, viz:

'A serious and conscientious person, a member of a Presbyterian congregation, who views the slavery of the negroes as a moral evil, highly offensive to God, and injurious to the interest of the gospel, lives under the ministry of a person, or amongst a society of people, who concur with him in sentiment on the subject upon general principles, yet for particular reasons hold slaves, and tolerate the practice in others. Ought the former of these persons, under the impressions and circumstances above described, to hold Christian communion with the latter?'

Whereupon, after due deliberation, it was

*Resolved*, That, as the same difference of opinion with respect to slavery takes place in sundry other parts of the Presbyterian Church, notwithstanding which they live in charity and peace, according to the doctrine and practice of the Apostles, it is hereby recommended to all conscientious persons, and especially to those whom it immediately respects, to do the same. At the same time the General Assembly assure all the churches under their care, that they view with the deepest concern any vestiges of slavery which may exist in our country, and refer the churches to the records of the General Assembly, published at different times, but especially to an overture of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, published in 1787, and republished among the extracts from the minutes of the General Assembly of 1793, on that head, with which, they trust, every conscientious person will be fully satisfied."

This is deemed a sufficient answer to the first petition, and with regard to the second, the Assembly observe that although in some sections of our country under certain circumstances, the transfer of slaves may be unavoidable, yet they consider the buying and selling of slaves by way of traffic, and all undue severity in the management of them, as inconsistent with the spirit of the gospel. And they recommend it to the Presbyteries and Sessions under their care, to make use of all prudent measures to prevent such shameful and unrighteous conduct.

The narrative of the state of religion was brought in by the committee to which it had been recommitted, and after it had been for some time the subject of discussion, and in part amended, it was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Dr. Miller, and Mr. Andrew Wylie, and the committee were directed to review the narrative, and superintend the printing of it.

*Resolved*, That fifteen hundred copies of the narrative be printed.

Mr. Corey, and Dr. White, obtained leave of absence, (after this day,) during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The Committee of Missions appeared in the Assembly, and read their second report, which being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the following missionaries be appointed, and that the following Presbyteries be authorized to employ missionaries, on missionary ground, within their respective bounds, viz:

1. The Rev. James Johnston, for three months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Champlain.

2. The Rev. Thomas Kennan, for two months, within the limits of the same Presbytery; both missionaries to receive directions relative to their routes from the Presbytery of Champlain, and if either should fail, the Presbytery is authorized to employ another person.

3. Presbytery of Columbia to employ a missionary for three months, and another for one month.

4. Presbytery of Geneva to employ a missionary for three months.

5. Rev. Oliver Whetmore, and Rev. David R. Dixon for three months,

within the bounds of the Presbytery of Oneida, the time to be divided between them, and their routes to be prescribed by the Presbytery.

6. Rev. Joshua Johnson for two months, within the limits of the Presbytery of Onondaga; and on the shores of the Oneida and Onondaga lakes.

7. Rev. Andrew Rawson for two months, in the Holland purchase.

8. Rev. John Davenport for two months. His route to be prescribed by the Presbytery of Onondaga.

9. Rev. Royall Phelps for three months, within the bounds and vicinity of the Presbytery of Cayuga.

10. Presbytery of Hudson to direct a mission of four months, on missionary ground within their limits, and to divide the time among the missionaries as they may judge most conducive to the interest of the mission.

11. Presbytery of New York to employ a missionary for two months and a half.

12. Presbytery of Long Island to employ a missionary for two months and a half.

13. The Committee of Missions to employ a missionary for three months, between the Delaware river and the Atlantic ocean.

14. Rev. John Gloucester for three months, to the blacks in Philadelphia.

15. The Committee of Missions to employ a missionary or missionaries for six months, on the Peninsula between the Delaware and Chesapeake bays and the ocean.

16. Presbytery of New Castle to employ a missionary for three months.

17. Rev. Moses Allen for two months, in Tyger's Valley, and on the Monongahela.

18. Rev. Joseph Stevenson for six weeks. His route to be prescribed by the Board of Trust of the Western Missionary Society.

19. Rev. James Welsh for two months, along the west line of the state of Ohio, and in the Indiana Territory.

20. Rev. James McGready for three months, in the Indiana Territory, in the counties of Clark, Harrison, Gibson, and Knox.

21. The Board of Trust of the Western Missionary Society to employ a missionary for four months.

22. Rev. Thomas Moore for three months, within the bounds of the Lancaster Presbytery.

23. Mr. James Wright for two months, in that district of country which lies between Steubenville and the head waters of the Big Miami.

24. Rev. Thomas E. Hughes for two months, in the counties of Wayne, Richland, and Huron, in the state of Ohio.

25. Rev. James Hughes for four months, in the vicinity of Urbana, and to the Indians in and about Lewistown.

26. Rev. John Boyd for two months, within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Lancaster and Miami.

27. Presbytery of Washington to employ a missionary for three months.

28. Rev. William Hodge for two months, within the limits of the Presbytery of Muhlenburg, in the counties of Robertson and Montgomery, Tennessee, and Christian, Kentucky.

29. The Committee of Missions to send a missionary for four months, in Tennessee, in compliance with the request of the Missionary Society of East Tennessee.

30. Rev. Archibald Steele for two months, within the Presbytery of Miami; and to receive directions as to his route from Rev. Mr. Wallace.

31. Rev. Thomas Cleland for two months, in the lower part of Kentucky and in the upper part of West Tennessee.

32. Rev. Stephen Hall for two months, within the bounds of the Transylvania and Muhlenburg Presbyteries.

33. Rev. Samuel Tait for two months, within the limits of the Presbytery of Erie.

34. Rev. John Lyle for three months, in the counties of Bourbon, Harrison, Nicholas, and Fayette, in Kentucky; and in this mission he will pay particular attention to the blacks.

35. Rev. Samuel Doak for one month, in that tract of country which lies between Engles' or Pepper's Ferry, on New River, and Dandridge, East Tennessee.

36. Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley for one month, within the limits of the Presbytery of Transylvania.

37. Rev. James Kemper for two months, on the Northern Neck, Virginia; the whole time to be spent on missionary ground; and for two months in Ohio and Kentucky, at discretion.

38. Rev. Colin McIver for three months, in the neighbourhood of Fayetteville, North Carolina, among the Scottish Highlanders settled in that district.

39. Rev. Daniel Gray for three months, commencing his mission in Union district; thence passing through the Cherokees to Duck river; thence to Elk; thence through the western part of Kentucky to Indiana Territory.

40. Mr. Eleazer S. Barrow for three months, on the route to be prescribed by Orange Presbytery.

41. Mr. Francis H. Porter for two months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Concord.

42. Rev. Humphrey Hunter for one month, within the same limits.

43. The Committee of Missions are authorized to appoint a missionary for six months to Natchez, if the funds shall be sufficient.

44. *Resolved*, That the Rev. James Hughes be allowed four hundred and fifty dollars for carrying on his mission to the Indians in and about Lewistown, Ohio. And,

45. That the Board of Trust of the Western Missionary Society be allowed three hundred dollars for the purpose of establishing a second school among the Six Nations; and that they be authorized to locate the school in any place among that people which they may deem the most suitable, whether it shall fall within or without their bounds.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to make a distribution of the moneys paid into the Commissioners' Fund, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That moneys have been paid into the Treasury, for this fund, as follows, viz:

Balance in hand on May 31, 1814, $24.06. Received from the following Presbyteries—Londonderry, $5.00. Columbia, 94.00. Albany, 117.74. Oneida, 79.40. Geneva, 75.98. Cayuga, 50.04. Onondaga, 52.71. Long Island, 56.85. Hudson, 111.50. New York, 187.69. Jersey, 113.32. New Brunswick, 75.45. Philadelphia, 97.27. New Castle, 61.95. Carlisle, 100.00. Baltimore, 12.00. Huntingdon, 34.00. Northumberland, 22.00. Redstone, 144.31. Ohio, 87.92. Erie, 30.00. Hartford, 28.08. Grand River, 14.05. Washington, 87.25. Lancaster, 45.26. Miami, 93.00. Transylvania, 25.00. Orange, 56.00. Concord, 33.00. South Carolina, 45.00. Total, $2059.83.

Received $2059.83. Paid 1950.36. Balance 109.47.

And that there is due to the following commissioners the sums annexed to their names, amounting at six cents per mile to nineteen hundred and fifty dollars thirty-six cents, viz:

To the Rev. Mr. Smith, $34.20. Mr. Lane, 39.00. Mr. Munson, 42.00. Mr. Axtell, 57.60. Mr. Young, 56.40. Mr. Bushnell, 42.00. Mr. Dod, 42.00. Mr. Blake, 42.00. Mr. Dwight, 42.00. Mr. Younglove, 33.60. Mr. Cooke, 25.80. Mr. Tombe, 36.72. Dr. Neill, 30.00. Dr. White, 26.40. Mr. Porter, 33.24. Mr. Basset, 31.80. Mr. Ostrom, 21.00. Mr. Clark, 21.60. Mr. Price, 21.00. Mr. Cummins, 16.80. Mr. Blauvelt, 14.40. Mr. Boardman, 11.76. Mr. Spring, 10.80. Dr. Rodgers, 10.80. Mr. Leverick, 11.76. Mr. Philips, 25.20. Mr. King, 19.20. Mr. Picton, 8.40. Mr. McDowell, 9.00. Mr. B. King, 10.80. Mr. B. Smith, 9.00. Mr. Hays, 9.60. Mr. Corey, 9.00. Mr. Bergen, 9.00. Mr. Finley, 8.40. Mr. Brown, 4.32. Mr. Armstrong, 3.60. Mr. Kirkpatrick, 4.80. Mr. Haydon, 3.60. Mr. Janvier, 4.80. Mr. Muirhead, 4.80. Dr. Miller, 4.80. Mr. Freeman, 4.80. Mr. J. Latta, 4.44. Mr. Copes, 14.40. Mr. James Latta, 5.40. Mr. Perkins, 4.56. Mr. Russel, 4.80. Mr. Steen, 4.20. Mr. Reynolds, 24.00. Mr. Cathcart, 10.80. Mr. McGinley, 18.72. Mr. McConaughy, 14.40. Mr. Boyd, 24.00. Mr. Watson, 18.00. Mr. Bryson, 18.00. Mr. Hutchinson, 16.92. Mr. Baldridge, 30.00. Mr. W. Wylie, 33.48. Mr. Guthrie, 32.40. Mr. Davis, 33.48. Mr. Eaton, 46.80. Mr. Wright, 55.80. Mr. Culbertson, 51.48. Mr. Barr, 51.60. Mr. Derrow, 45.60. Mr. Patterson, 38.40. Mr. McMillan, 40.80. Mr. A. Wylie, 36.00. Mr. Hopkins, 15.60. Mr. Wilson, 60.00. Dr. Hall, 68.40. Mr. Dickson, 88.32. Mr. Welsh, 71.76. Mr. Paisley, 60.00. Amount $1950.36."

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue warrants for the payment of the foregoing sums.

The committee to which was referred the reports of the agents to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, and whose duty it was also made to devise a plan for increasing the funds of the Seminary, reported, and their report being read, and for some time discussed, it was recommitted to the same committee.

The unfinished business of yesterday, viz: the consideration of the report of the committee to which had been committed the reference of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, concerning the proper construction of the first article of the first chapter of the forms of process, relative to persons who have been baptized, but have not been admitted to the Lord's table, was resumed. After a long discussion on the subject, a motion was made and seconded, for an indefinite postponement. The question being taken was determined in the affirmative, and therefore the farther consideration of the subject was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Hayden obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 28th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Francis D. Janvier resigned his seat to Mr. Samuel Bayard, the principal mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Bayard being present, took his seat as a member.

The committee to which were referred the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, made their report, which being read, was accepted, and the Stated Clerk was directed to have it transcribed into the Compendious View.

The committee to which was referred the consideration of the report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That from the pleasing accounts given by said Board, the Assembly owe the most grateful acknowledgments to the King of Zion, in that he appears, in such a conspicuous manner, to have lifted the light of his countenance on that infant seminary.

Had our nation been under the most peaceful and flourishing circumstances since the organization of that institution, we could scarcely have expected a more favourable account than that which has been exhibited in the above report. What then may we expect under the smiles of a propitious providence, if proper future exertions be made, when we take into view that spirit of liberality with which it has pleased God to inspire the people under the care of the Assembly, when we are favoured with the blessings of peace?

These considerations may not only induce, but stimulate us to proceed in our future exertions to obtain those objects which are indispensably necessary for its continued existence and prosperity.

Your committee consider the thanks of the Assembly due to those benevolent female societies by which such laudable exertions have been made for the education of indigent and pious youths in that Seminary, not only by pecuniary aid, but also in other things, we believe unparalleled in similar circumstances. And it is pleasing to learn, that not less than sixteen students are supported at the expense of those societies.

From the report of the Board respecting the examination of the students at the end of each session, it gives your committee pleasure to believe that the Professors have been faithful in the discharge of their official duties, and that the wishes of the Assembly have been realized in the progress made by their pupils. They are also happy to learn that the students have conducted themselves in such a manner as does honour both to themselves and their teachers, not only in their moral and religious conduct, but in their endeavours to promote religion in the minds of the people in their vicinity.

But the main subject referred to your committee, is the expediency of erecting buildings suitable for the accommodation of the Professors and students. On this important subject your committee beg leave to report, that taking into view the considerations already suggested, as to the spirit of our people for the support of the Seminary, and humble reliance on a superintending providence, we have encouragement to proceed farther in our views and exertions, by endeavouring to effect those things which are indispensably necessary for its support and future existence.

Your committee do, therefore, recommend that measures be adopted by which the necessary buildings may be erected as soon as circumstances will admit.

As it is recommended by the Board to inform the public what sums are necessary to endow a Professorship and a Scholarship, your committee recommend, that a sum not less than twenty thousand dollars be considered as requisite to endow a Professorship; and a sum not less than two thousand five hundred dollars be considered as requisite to endow a Scholarship.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly do hereby authorize the Board of Directors to proceed without delay in purchasing materials for the erection of a principal edifice, for the accommodation of the Theological Seminary, on such plan as they may think proper; and to lay the foundation of said edifice during the present year.

The Synodical report of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, and the Presbyterial reports of the Presbyteries of Londonderry and Harmony, were received and committed to the committee to which the Synodical and Presbyterial reports had at a former session been committed.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Price obtained leave of absence (after this day) during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Mr. Armstrong communicated by Mr. Clark to the Assembly, that in consequence of indisposition he was obliged to return home.

Mr. Baldridge obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

*Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars be placed at the disposal of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, for carrying into effect, at their discretion, the erection of an edifice for the Theological Seminary, authorized by the Assembly this morning.

An appeal by Mr. William L. McCalla from the decision of the Synod of Kentucky, in which decision the Synod declared, that Mr. McCalla had failed to prove certain charges which he had brought against the Rev. James Blythe, was overtured. After considerable progress had been made in reading the papers on the subject, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Messrs. Perkins, Blauvelt, and Andrew Wylie, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly; and Dr. Hall, and Mr. Russel, obtained leave of absence (after this day) during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The business left unfinished yesterday, viz: an appeal from a decision of the Synod of Kentucky, was resumed, and all the documents on the subject were read.

Messrs. Blake and George W. Janvier obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly; and Mr. Birch obtained leave of absence (after this day) during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Boyd obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The unfinished business of the morning was resumed, and after the appellant had been heard at considerable length, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 29th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

*Resolved*, That the sum of sixty-six dollars and sixty-seven cents be paid to the Rev. John Breckenridge, being the balance due to him for missionary labours performed by him in the year 1811; and that the sum of ninety-one dollars and seventy-three cents be paid to the Rev. Enoch Whipple, being the balance due him for a mission of two months and eight days, performed in 1815.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees be instructed to issue warrants for the above sums.

The narrative of the state of religion was printed agreeably to the resolution of the Assembly at a former session, and is as follows, viz:

"The General Assembly, in laying before their beloved people as accurate an account as they could obtain of the state of religion in their congregations during the year past, rejoice to have it in their power to announce that the gracious footsteps of the Lord have not ceased to be visible in the midst of them. From the reports submitted by the several Presbyteries, it appears, that although causes of deep humiliation undoubtedly exist, true religion and sound morals are, on the whole, making a gratifying progress. Infidelity has become insignificant, both in the numbers and talents of those who affect it. Vices hitherto domineering have been in many places successfully encountered by the efforts of the friends of godliness. The destructive sin of intemperance, against which the zealous labours of the church, and the influence of all good citizens, have been of late with peculiar energy directed, does not exhibit itself to its former extent of atrocity and shamelessness. Order, harmony, peace, correct principles, steadfastness in the faith, ministerial fidelity, and a decent and serious attention to public worship and divine ordinances on the part of the people, generally prevail. Few or none of those dissensions have occurred which present a threatening aspect to the prosperity of Zion. No dangerous, or even important error is apprehended to exist. The missionary has carried the gospel to destitute thousands, breaking to them the bread of life, and refreshing them in the wilderness with the waters of eternal consolation. New congregations have been formed in various parts of our country. In some distant sections of our ecclesiastical community, where the stated means of grace have not hitherto been enjoyed, there is a prospect of a numerous and speedy accession of ministers. The additions to the communion are, in many congregations, very large; in almost all considerable; and of these, the Assembly are happy to be informed by several of their southern Presbyteries, are numbers of the African race. The Assembly, desirous of improving the opportunity which this information affords them, claim the religious attention of their ministers and elders to this class of people, whose immortal concerns are too apt to be neglected by those very persons for whose ease and affluence they toil.

Revivals, to a greater or less extent, have occurred in various portions of our church. In the towns of Rahway and Woodbridge, in the Presbytery of Jersey, unusually great additions have been made to the communion; a very lively interest has been excited with reference to eternal concerns, and much done towards promoting the Redeemer's cause. This is the more worthy of notice, inasmuch as a lamentable indifference is known previously to have existed in those towns. A revival of importance has occurred in the second congregation of Wilmington, in the Presbytery of New Castle; a fact connected with which, the Assembly deem it proper to mention for the encouragement of their people; there had been a society for prayer, whose meetings began to be neglected to such a degree as to threaten its dissolution. Its discouraged friends talked of this as an event near at hand. Through the restraining providence of God, however, it was not dissolved. Circumstances soon occurred, which, under the administration of the Spirit, renewed the face of the congregation, and in a few short months, instead of a single society, wasted and feeble, and about to expire, arose four societies, 'fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;' 'quickened to call upon his name;' Jacob wrestling for his blessing, and like Israel prevailing to obtain it. True was the expression of the brother relating this fact, the darkest hour is that nearest day light.

It were to be wished that the Assembly could perceive, in a more general amelioration of manners and habits, that improvement of the dispensations of Almighty God which he expects, and mankind are obligated to exhibit. The judgments of pestilence and war have carried their desolations over a large portion of our land, wringing the widow's heart, and dimming the eye of the fatherless. Infelicities of a diversified character have followed in their train. Reversed fortunes and defeated hopes, have not been wanting to tell men that 'they build too low, who build beneath the skies.' But men do not know, neither will they consider. The effects of these judgments have been different on minds of two opposite classes. Nor will it be a matter of surprise to any who are acquainted, on the one hand, with the workings of the gracious principle, or apprized on the other, of the force of depravity and the callousness of the heart, to learn that while the real Christian has been confirmed and made better by the visitations of God, the alien from the commonwealth of Israel, the man of earth, the unbelieving servant of the corruption which is in the world through lust, has regarded them with indifference, or barred the avenues of sensibility against the admission of their monitory call. Hence, to the pleasing representation of things given above, the Assembly are constrained to acknowledge some unhappy exceptions. Intemperance, although it should seem on the decline, still disfigures the moral aspect of society. In too many parts of our country, the violation of the Christian Sabbath calls as loudly on the believer to oppose to it his influence, his admonitions, and his prayers, as if nothing had yet been done. The rancorous hostility of political party preys upon domestic and social peace, and indisposes men to admit the kindly influences of religious love. The spirit of the world struggles successfully for dominion. And in a word, many humbling facts present themselves to urge pious people to the throne of grace, that they may supplicate a more copious effusion of the enlivening and converting Spirit.

The reports made by the delegates from the General Associations of Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts proper, and the General Convention of Vermont, afford very exhilarating intelligence, resembling in its prominent features, that submitted by Presbyteries. In Connecticut and Massachusetts proper, revivals of magnitude meet the inquiries of the Assembly, and establish the Lord's claim to the gratitude of his believing people. In the first mentioned of these Associations, the most laudable exertions are made towards the furtherance of foreign missions. From the other, the Assembly are pleased to learn, that certain errors of a pernicious character, infesting that district of country for a length of time, have ceased to advance, if they have not been driven back from their threatening position. Young ministers, sound in the faith, have been settled of late in many congregations esteemed hitherto to be disinclined towards correct principles. New Hampshire and Vermont, also, have been particularly visited; the former more especially in the town of Haverhill, the inhabitants of which had long been without a settled minister, and careless of possessing the privileges and ordinances of the gospel.

The Assembly would do injustice to the subject, were they not to advert more particularly, for the instruction and counselling of the churches, to certain facts and circumstances which they consider both as instruments and evidences of a progressive work of grace extending itself through the past year.

The social principle is mighty in its operations. It constitutes a powerful law of nature. When sanctified by religion, and consecrated to the immediate service of God, what results of high import and holy advantage may not be expected from it? Growing out of this principle, a multitude of associations of a pious and benevolent nature have spread themselves through the churches under the Assembly's care, as well as those with which we are in ecclesiastical connection in the eastern States. The practice of uniting the talents, influence, and resources of individuals, by these hallowed bonds, and for these religious, moral, and charitable purposes, is not novel. It has been more than once before this announced to exist among our people. But it seems, that at no former period has it been pursued with such vigour, extension, and success, as recently. The spirit in which it originated is more actively at work than ever, and diffuses itself far and wide. Christian women, the mothers and the sisters in Israel, the daughters in Jerusalem, mingling with the softest sensibilities of nature the holier refinements of a gracious heart, minister of their substance to the Lord Jesus, serve him by serving his poor, and rival where they do not surpass their brethren in instructing and maintaining societies promotive of the interests of his divine religion. It would be difficult to number the associations of these virtuous and praiseworthy women, formed some, for contributing to the education of poor and pious youth for the office of the holy ministry; others, for the distribution of Bibles; others, for instructing the ignorant of adult age to read, in order that the word of God may be brought nigh unto them; and others, again, for supplying the pressing wants and alleviating the bodily diseases of the indigent sufferer.

To the benefits derived from those institutions which have been denominated Moral Associations, the Assembly bear their willing testimony. Abundant evidence has been furnished of their success in repressing audacious vice, and producing a degree, at least, of external reformation. Sobriety has obviously been promoted by them; and rigidly discountenanced by them, profaneness has grown into disrepute.

Bible societies, forming a most prominent feature of the religious character of the times, are multiplying daily. Scarcely can there be discovered any considerable portion of settled country in these States, where some association of this kind is not either organized, or about to be organized. Words are wanting to express the inestimable value of these societies, which, by putting the book of life into the hands of the needy, enrich them with heavenly treasures; and which embodying, so to speak, the zeal of all Christian denominations, and knitting to each other persons, who, however they may differ on many points of greater or of minor importance, agree in affirming the word of God to be the only infallible rule of faith and practice, neutralize the asperity of the bigot and the sectarian, and reconcile the contending members of the same great brotherhood. The tendency of Bible societies to produce this auspicious result is not now a matter of experiment; facts have ascertained it.

Justice and the praise due to persevering piety, forbid the Assembly to pass unnoticed the continued labours of one particular institution, viz: the Evangelical Society of Philadelphia for the instruction of poor children, the members of which have, during the past year, had under their care about one thousand children of this description. More than one of these have proved to be little brands plucked from the burning; and have manifested in death the blessed fruits of that sacred sympathy which brought them out of darkness into light, and from the power of Satan into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Praying societies constitute another particular worthy of observation in detailing the religious character of the past year. Not that their origin is of a date thus modern. They have long subsisted in certain parts of our church. But of late years they have been multiplied; and since the narrative rendered by the last Assembly, their number has been very considerably augmented, and their influence in quickening the zeal of the pious, and converting those that are without, singularly attested. For all the spiritual blessings which are in heavenly things and places in Christ Jesus, God will be inquired of. Wherever two or three are gathered together in the name of Christ, they have his promise that he will be with them; and never is the Holy Spirit refused to those, who with contrite hearts and humble faith implore his fellowship. Christian love is excited and cherished, and a reciprocity of encouraging and fortifying motives created by what the Assembly may be permitted to call a common consciousness of common wants, desires, and weaknesses. Heart springs to heart. A full tide of mingled affection sets in towards Him from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift. 'The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.'

The Assembly have reserved for the conclusion of their narrative some particulars of information at once highly important and gratifying. They relate to the revivals with which it has pleased God to favour several of the most distinguished seminaries of learning in the United States of America, indistinct intimations of which, it is not doubted, many of our people have received.

Divine impressions have been made upon the minds of a number of the youth of Hampden Sidney College, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hanover. In several of the subjects of these impressions, it is believed a saving change has been effected, while their influence is visible in stamping a religious solemnity on the face of the institution generally.

Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, has been favoured with lively tokens of the Divine presence. Within the space of a very few weeks many of its youth have been renewed in the spirit of their minds, and have returned to the Lord their rest. Many more have been excited to serious reflection. And of one hundred and forty students, but one, it is stated, remains unimpressed; while, at the same time, a number of the younger inhabitants of the town in which the college is situated, share the precious effusion.

Passing on from this institution to Middlebury College, in Vermont, the Assembly behold there also footsteps of the reviving Spirit. A number of the youth of Middlebury have become serious Christians—trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

Retracing their steps, the Assembly find their attention called to operations of greater extent in Yale College, Connecticut. In the progress of God's gracious visit to this seat of learning, 'the whole College,' to use the emphatical description of the delegate reporting on the subject, 'was shaken as the trees of a wood are shaken by a mighty wind.' 'As many as fifty,' he states, 'have given evidence of having passed from death unto life.' A considerable number of these belong to Virginia, and the States farther south.'

'The ways of the Lord are right'—they are wise—they are holy—they are gracious—they are admirable—and 'sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.' Intelligence of the interesting scenes which were taking place at Princeton, is said to have been one important means of quickening the Church to prayer and religious conversation previous to any favourable appearances in Yale College.

The Assembly, therefore, returning towards the centre of their ecclesiastical concerns, recognize with gratitude God's gracious work in the College of New Jersey. From the report of the President of this Seminary to the Board of Trustees, which report has been read to the Assembly, it is learned that 'a majority of the students now in the College, may be viewed as hopefully pious;' and that 'a large proportion of the residue appear to possess much tenderness of conscience, and show a very desirable regard to religious duties and obligations.' Among the causes which have been made effective of this blessed revolution in the spiritual state of Nassau Hall, three have been presented which the Assembly deem it useful to mention, for the sake, especially, of such of their people as may be concerned in the care of precious youth. 1st. The study of the Holy Scriptures, accompanied with comments on the portion read, and a practical application of the leading truths contained in it. 2d. Moral discipline, vigorously and vigilantly maintained. 3d. The few pious youth who were members of College before the revival, as a leaven leavening the whole mass. The subjects of this revival are of a diversity of religious denominations, great care having been used to avoid both an excluding and a proselyting spirit. It has occasioned no remission of the ordinary pursuits of literature and science, but, on the contrary, has had a friendly bearing upon them. No influence from the quarter of authority has been introduced, to force any of the youth into a participation of the extraordinary exercises which took place. But the Assembly forbear to enlarge.

It is scarcely possible to light upon subjects of more deep and lively interest to the soul that sincerely loves the Redeemer and his cause, than the scenes which have now passed in review before the churches. The strength and wealth of the kingdom of Christ on earth, are found in its youth of promise. Here, then, are at least a hundred and thirty young Christians to be sent abroad into the world from the bosom of sanctified science, to go forth to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Here are the hopes of Zion bred in the nurseries of learning and piety. Here is a verification of the oracle, 'the children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.' And here are the fountains whose streams, confluent and yet pellucid, smooth and noiseless, make glad the city of our God. May the propitious influence of these revivals extend with rapidity to every seminary in the republic, that the schools of the prophets may never cease to be fed from the halls of science and the liberal arts!

In the view of all the facts and details which have been related, the Assembly offer their congratulations to the friends of Zion, and to those who have prayed for the peace of Jerusalem. 'God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God shall help her, and that right early.' 'God is known in her palaces for a refuge.' 'According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness. Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments. Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death.'"

The unfinished business of Saturday, viz: an appeal by Mr. William L. McCalla from a decision of the Synod of Kentucky, in which decision the Synod declared, that Mr. McCalla had failed to prove certain charges which he had brought against the Rev. James Blythe, was resumed; and the appellant was heard till he declared himself satisfied. On motion,

*Resolved*, That the judgment of the Synod of Kentucky, with respect to the charges brought by Mr. William L. McCalla against the Rev. James Blythe, be and it hereby is affirmed.

It having been stated to the Assembly that Dr. Miller had found it necessary to return home, Dr. Archibald Alexander, the alternate mentioned in their commission, being present, took his seat as a member.

Mr. Cook obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Mr. William Wylie obtained leave of absence (after this day) during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

*Resolved,* That the consideration of the report of the committee on the subject of petitioning Congress relative to the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath, be the order of the day for the afternoon.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, the consideration of the report of the committee on the subject of petitioning Congress relative to the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath, was taken up, and being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"Your committee to whom was referred a petition communicated by the Committee of Overtures, requesting a renewed application to the Congress of the United States, with respect to the violations of the Sabbath, occasioned by the transporting and opening of the mail on that sacred day, beg leave to report, that it is the opinion of your committee, that no exertions which can be made for promoting the sanctification of the Lord's day can exceed the importance of the object.

A due observance of this institution of our holy religion, is the characteristic signature by which God has distinguished his people, and which he has instituted as a constant sign of their relation to him. His institutions, it becomes us to remember, are not useless forms. They have their foundation in the nature and constitution of things; we cannot, therefore, give up the sign without renouncing the blessing thereby signified. Were this grand pillar of the Christian fabric removed, the whole building would soon fall to the ground. The powerful influence of that day is even now scarcely sufficient, as we have many melancholy proofs, to support the cause of truth and vital piety; who then can but foresee the direful consequences of being deprived of its privileges!

These considerations receive a peculiar weight at the present time from existing circumstances. It is doubtless well known to many members of this body, that great exertions are making in various parts of the Union, and particularly in the eastern States, for promoting the due observance of the Christian Sabbath. To these efforts there are many adversaries; and if this opposition remain armed with national authority, and this Assembly, who first raised the standard of truth, and invited their brethren to the glorious struggle, also forsake them; the prospect is, that the floodgates of iniquity will be again forced open, and a far greater inundation follow. These circumstances imperiously urge to the measure stated in the petition. But what encouragement, some may say, can we have to renew our application after such a refusal? Your committee are of the opinion, that the very act of petitioning will have no small effect, both to animate the friends, and to weaken the enemies of this cause. But this is not our only hope. Shall we forget that God has the entire control of the hearts of men, and that those who faithfully pursue the path of duty, may with confidence rely upon his aid? Nay, we are encouraged to the re-application by the terms in which the refusal of our former request was given. The reason having ceased to exist on which that refusal was predicated, as far as we have confidence in the sincerity of our rulers, so far we may extend our confidence that they will now give due weight to our remonstrances. How indeed can we doubt the countenance of those in this cause, who declare it to be their belief, 'that public policy, pure morality, and undefiled religion, combine in favour of a due observance of the Sabbath?' However weak the practical influence of this truth may be found, we cannot doubt but that it is the language of conviction. The grand experiment by which God has been demonstrating to mankind the destructive nature of infidelity, with regard to society, must force open the eyes even of the blind, to see the fatal tendency of sin, especially in republics, which are founded on the principle that the law is the supreme power. A free government, therefore, in which existing laws have lost their efficacy, presents to view a government in which the supreme authority lies prostrate under the feet of the lawless and disobedient. In producing this most unhappy state of society, the first efforts of iniquity will be exerted to silence those laws and regulations which most powerfully counteract the depraved feelings of the heart, which tend to strengthen the moral sense, and which remind men of their accountability to that tribunal from which there is no appeal. If, therefore, the main spring of moral instruction, and moral feeling, is found in a due sanctification of the Sabbath, to destroy its influence, to them so irksome, will be the first effort of the sons of Belial. The spirit of infidelity which united itself with the French revolution, intuitively pursued this course. Her first and most fatal blow was directed against this sacred institution. By a successful effort here, she silenced at once the batteries of truth, and opened the way for the unrestrained practice of her future enormities. To suppose that our rulers will not be influenced by truths so plain, and of which they have avowed their conviction, is to suppose them destitute, not only of the fear of God, but of political wisdom, and even willing to plunge themselves, their friends and families, into all the horrors of anarchy and unrestrained licentiousness. Wherefore,

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly recommend to all the churches and societies in their connection, to petition the Congress of the United States that such arrangements may be made as may prevent the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath day.

*Resolved*, That it be, and it hereby is, earnestly recommended to all the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly, to adopt speedy measures to induce the societies within their respective limits, to circulate petitions on the subject, and having circulated them for signature, to transmit them to Congress by the first day of January next.

Messrs. Welsh, McDowell, and Wright, were appointed a committee to draught a petition on the suljeet.

The Hon. Messrs. Samuel Taggart, Henry Southard, and William Finley, were appointed a committee to endeavour to carry into effect the object of the petition mentioned.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk write to the aforesaid gentlemen, and inform them of their appointment.

The committee appointed to prepare a statement of the result of the reports of agents to solicit donations to the Theological Seminary, and to devise and report to the Assembly a plan to be adopted for the future increase of the funds of the Seminary, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

“ That the following sums have been reported by the agents, viz :

| *Agents.* | *Districts.* | *Subscribed.* | *Collected.* | *Subscribed.* | *Collected.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rev. Hez. N. Woodruff, | Presbytery of Cayuga. | $ | $ | $ 30.00 | $ 30.00 |
| Dr. William Neill, | Presbytery of Oneida, | | | | |
| | Congregation of Utica, | 819.00 | 819.00 | | |
| | " Cooperstown, | 322.00 | 322 00 | | |
| | " Whitesborough, | 203 18 | 203.18 | | |
| | " New Hartford, | 184.64 | 184.64 | | |
| | " Cherry Valley, | 117.44 | 117.44 | | |
| | Donation from Ananias Platt, | 20.00 | 20.00 | | |
| | | | | 1666.26 | 1666.26 |
| Dr. S. Blatchford, and James Richards, | Presbytery of New York, | | | 2704.45 | 2547.45 |
| Rev. John McDowell, | Presbytery of Philadelphia, | | | | |
| | Congregation of Woodbury, | 147.00 | 119.00 | | |
| | " Greenwich, | 79.00 | 79.00 | | |
| | " Bridgeton, | 299.00 | 298.00 | | |
| | " Pittsgrove, | 89.50 | 77.00 | | |
| | " Fairfield, | 103.00 | 100.00 | | |
| | " Deerfield, | 40.00 | 40.00 | | |
| | Subscription of Rev. Dr. Janeway, Philad. | 100.00 | 100.00 | | |
| | Do. of Mrs. Susan M. Niemcewicz. Elizabethtown, for the support of indigent students, | 50.00 | 50.00 | 907.50 | 863.00 |
| Rev. William Latta, | Presbytery of Philadelphia, | | | | |
| | Congregation of Great Valley, | 134.00 | 77.00 | | |
| | " Neshaminy, | 219.00 | 207.00 | | |
| | " Abington, | 150.00 | 129.00 | | |
| | " Bensalem, | 54.50 | 9.00 | | |
| | " Solebury, | 116.00 | 76.00 | | |
| | " Newtown, | 150.00 | 53.00 | | |
| | | | | 823.50 | 551.00 |
| Rev. Samuel Tait, | Presbytery of Erie, | | | 384.00 | 210.00 |
| Rev. John Wright, | " of Lancaster, | | | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| Rev. James Blythe, | " of West Lexington, | | | 69.70 | 69.70 |
| Rev. I. H. Turner, | " of Fayetteville, | | | 76.40 | 76.40 |
| Dr. Andrew Flinn, | " of Harmony, congreg. of Camden, | | | 50.32 | 50.32 |
| Rev. John McCampbell, | " of Union, | | | 33.93 | 33.93 |
| Rev. John Johnston, | " of Hudson, congreg. of Bethlehem, | | | 15.10 | 15.10 |
| Rev. David Comfort, | " of New Brunswick, | | | 1500.00 | 1156.00 |
| Rev. John E. Latta, | " of New Castle, | | | 252.00 | 234.00 |
| Rev. Daniel Dana, | Subscription of Mrs. M. C., of Newburyport, | | | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| | | | | 8618.16 | 7608.16 |
| Subscription of Henry Whitney, in 1812, and collected by Dr. Blatchford and Mr. Richards, | | | | | 75.00 |
| Collected by Mr. Guthrie, in Redstone Presbytery, (subscriptions of former years,) | | | | | 30.00 |
| Ditto, in the congregation of Alexandria, for the education of young men in the Seminary, | | | | | 200.00 |
| Albany society in aid of the Seminary, | | | | | 85.00 |
| Dollar Society of Princeton, in aid of the funds of the Theological Seminary, | | | | | 58.00 |
| | | | | | $8056.16 |

The agents, according to their reports, have collected the following books, viz : Rev. John McDowell, fifty volumes. Rev. William Latta, one volume. Presented by Rev. Dr. Hall, eleven volumes. Total, sixty-two volumes.

To increase the funds of the Theological Seminary, the committee recommend that the Assembly appoint the following agents in the following districts, to solicit donations in money and books, viz :

In the Presbytery of Cayuga—Rev. Hezekiah N. Woodruff. Onondaga—Rev. Jabez Chadwick. Geneva—Rev. Henry Axtell. Oneida—Rev. Henry Dwight. Albany and Columbia—Rev. Dr. William Neill. In Londonderry Presbytery, and other places in New England, at discretion—Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander. In the Presbytery of Hudson—Rev. Eliphalet Price and John Johnston. New York—Rev. James Richards. Long Island—Rev. Asa Hillyer. Jersey—Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller and Jonathan Freeman. New Brunswick—Rev. David Comfort. Philadelphia—Rev. William Latta and John McDowell. New Castle—Rev. John E. Latta. Carlisle—Rev. James Patterson. Baltimore—Rev. Dr. Jacob J. Janeway. Huntingdon—Rev. James Linn. Northumberland—Rev. John B. Patterson. Ohio—William Wylie. Redstone—Elisha McCurdy and James Galbraith. Erie Rev. Samuel Tait. Hartford—Rev. Thomas E. Hughes. Lancaster—Rev. John Wright. Grand River—Rev. Thomas Barr. Muhlenburg—Rev. William Dickey. West Tennessee—Rev. Robert Henderson. South Carolina—Rev. Dr. Moses Waddel. West Lexington—Rev. James Blythe, Washington—Rev. James Hoge. Union—Rev. John McCampbell. Orange, Concord, and Fayetteville—Rev. Dr. James Hall, and Colin McIver. Transylvania—Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley. Harmony—Rev. John Couser. Hopewell—Rev. Dr. John Brown. Miami—Rev. Joshua L. Wilson and Matthew G. Wallace.

*Resolved*, That the pulpits of the agents, when they are prosecuting the business of their agency, be supplied when necessary at the expense of the Assembly; and that the necessary expenses of the agents while performing the service assigned to them above, be defrayed from what they may collect. And it is hereby strictly enjoined on all the agents as speedily as possible to enter upon the duties assigned them in their respective districts.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk of the Assembly transmit as soon as possible, an attested certificate of their appointment to the agents respectively.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly have heard with lively pleasure of the exertions of pious and benevolent females, in some portions of our church, to raise funds for the support of indigent students in the Theological Seminary. By these seasonable exertions many promising youth have been supported at the institution, who otherwise could not have had access to its advantages. But notwithstanding all that has been done, the funds are still inadequate for the supply of all the applicants; and through the past year several young men of promising talents and piety were prevented from entering the Seminary for want of support. The Assembly hope that this fact will be sufficient to increase the number of female associations for the support of indigent students, preparing for the gospel ministry. The money which such associations may raise, may be applied by the associations themselves to such students in the institution as they may think proper, or it may, which has usually been done, be transmitted to the professors, to be appropriated at their discretion.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly do hereby again earnestly recommend to their ministers, elders, and people, the formation of societies, in aid of the funds of the Seminary in general, according to the plan recommended in the printed extracts of last year; and that they pay the money which they may collect in this way to Isaac Snowden, Esq., of Philadelphia, the Treasurer of the General Assembly, and annually report to the General Assembly the sums which they may have paid to the Treasurer through the year.

*Resolved*, That it be and hereby is again enjoined on all the former and present agents to transmit to the Rev. John McDowell, of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, Secretary to the Board of Directors, an accurate list of the names of donors to the institution, with the sums or books which they may have given, that they may be recorded in the book kept for that purpose.

*Resolved*, further, That if any of the agents should decline their appointment, the Board of Directors may, on receiving information thereof, appoint some other persons in their place until the meeting of the next Assembly.

*Resolved*, That four thousand eight hundred dollars be appropriated to defray the expenses of the Theological Seminary for the ensuing year, and to pay for land purchased by the Directors for the site of said Seminary.

The protest of the Rev. George Bourne against the decision of the Assembly upon the petitions presented to them, respecting the discipline necessary with regard to persons who hold, sell, and buy slaves, was read, and an order was passed that it be put on the files of the Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 30*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read.

The report of the committee to which was referred the subject of erecting a building for the accommodation of the Assembly was read; and the subject was recommitted to Dr. Janeway, Rev. George C. Potts, and Messrs. Robert Ralston, Robert Smith, John Connelly, Jonathan Smith, Thomas Latimer, and Charles Chauncey, who were directed to take the subject into consideration, and if they can accomplish the object without drawing on the funds of the Assembly, they were authorized to procure a building for the Assembly, in which to hold their sessions.

The following question was overtured and read, viz: "Should a person, baptized by a minister after his excommunication, who had formerly belonged to the Presbyterian Church, but upon being cited by the Presbytery to which he belonged, to answer a charge brought against him, sent in his declination of all further connection with the Presbyterian Church, and did not connect himself with any Christian denomination, and after a number of regular citations had been served upon him, was excommunicated by the Presbytery for contumacy."*

On motion, *Resolved*, That the consideration of the subject be indefinitely postponed.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of a petition to the Congress on the subject of the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath, reported the following, which was adopted, viz:

"The undersigned, inhabitants of . . . . . . and state of . . . . . . beg leave to represent to the honourable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled, that in the opinion of your petitioners, the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath day, is inconsistent with the proper observance of that sacred day, injurious to the morals of the nation, and provokes the judgments of the Ruler of nations. We perceive from the report of the postmaster-general, at your last session, on this subject, that it is his opinion that when peace shall arrive, the necessity of carrying and opening the mail on the Sabbath day will greatly diminish. While, therefore, we congratulate you on the return of peace, we approach you with confidence, and we beseech you to take this subject into your serious consideration, and enact such laws as you in your wisdom may deem necessary for the removal of this evil. And we, your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

*Resolved*, That two thousand copies of the foregoing petition be printed as soon as practicable, and that Mr. McDowell superintend the printing.

Whereas, The King and Head of the Church has during the last year poured out his Spirit in a remarkable and glorious manner on many of the churches within our bounds, and has manifestly succeeded the efforts of Christians in past years, in their endeavours to diffuse the light of revealed truth among the heathen; and has hereby encouraged and urged the pious to united and importunate wrestling at the throne of grace; and whereas many Christians in Asia, Africa, and Europe, have agreed to set apart the first Monday evening of every month, that they may meet together, and say with one heart, to the prayer-hearing God, "Thy kingdom come; come, Lord Jesus, and fill the world with thy glory;"—Therefore,

---

* This minute is evidently defective. It probably refers to the validity of baptism thus administered. Ed.

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly do approve of concerts of prayer for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, and do recommend it to the friends of Zion in their connection, as far as may be convenient, to spend the first Monday in every month in special prayer to God, for the coming and glorious reign of Christ on earth.

It appearing from the minutes of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church, that after purchasing from Richard Stockton, Esq., a lot of land on which to erect those edifices that may be deemed necessary for said Seminary, they found the said lot not lying at right angles with the turnpike-road, on which the said lot is situated, and that it was highly expedient to procure a small triangular section of ground from Dr. Vancleve, by whose land the aforesaid lot of ground is bounded on the south-west; the Directors of the said Seminary agreed to exchange a part of the lot purchased of Mr. Stockton, for that belonging to Dr. Vancleve; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That this Assembly approve of said exchange of land, and do hereby authorize the Trustees to whom the said lot purchased of Mr. Stockton was conveyed, to transfer a part of the same in exchange for that part belonging to Dr. Vancleve lying on the turnpike-road, on such terms as may have been agreed on by the Board of Directors of said Seminary.

Whereas, This Assembly have heard with lively pleasure of the exertions which have been made in some places within their bounds during the past year, to form associations for the suppressing of intemperance, Sabbath-breaking, and other crying sins of this land; Therefore,

*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended by this General Assembly to all their Presbyteries, that with one heart and one mind, they use their best endeavours to establish societies for the suppression of vice and immorality, wherever they are not yet formed, and to give efficiency to such as are already established; and that they endeavour to obtain the co-operation of all denominations of Christians in their respective limits.

Dr. Neill reported to the Assembly, that his necessary expenses in prosecuting his agency for the Theological Seminary, and supplying his pulpit during his absence, amounted to $84.25.

Dr. Blatchford and Mr. Richards reported an account of the same, amounting to $65.00.

Mr. McDowell reported that his necessary expenses in prosecuting his agency amounted to $15.00.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue warrants for the payment of the above accounts.

Dr. Inglis, and Messrs. Patterson and Smith, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of twenty-two dollars to Joseph Jacobs, for eleven days' service rendered the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk, agreeably to the rate fixed by a former Assembly, and for stationery furnished by him for their use.

*Resolved*, That one thousand seven hundred copies of the extracts of the minutes of the Assembly be printed.

*Resolved*, That the committee appointed to have a number of the printed copies of the extracts of the minutes of the General Assembly from its commencement re-printed, be authorized at their discretion to have them re-printed either so as to yield a profit to the funds of the General Assembly, or at the risk of the printer, as may appear to them expedient.

*Resolved*, That the directors of the Theological Seminary be authorized to have printed, when they may think it expedient, a correct copy of the plan of said Seminary, together with such other information relating to the Seminary as may appear to them important to be communicated to the public.

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain if any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was determined that none be reported to the Presbyteries this year as delinquents in the above case.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday in May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, therefore, dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed by the Constitution of the Church. Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1815.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Geneva, | 24 | 3 | 34 | 1002 | $ 86 |
| Cayuga, | 11 | — | 18 | 624 | 71 |
| Onondaga, | 17 | — | 17 | 1280 | 131 |
| Columbia, | 13 | 2 | 19 | 690 | 274 |
| Albany, | 10 | 2 | 7 | 1424 | 217 |
| Londonderry, | 13 | 3 | 11 | 513 | 123 |
| Champlain, | 7 | — | — | — | — |
| Oneida, | 20 | — | 17 | 878 | 284 |
| Hudson, | 24 | 1 | 34 | 1744 | 360 |
| Long Island, | 13 | — | 16 | 860 | 122 |
| New York, | 12 | 6 | 11 | 1627 | 1111 |
| Jersey, | 23 | 5 | 26 | 4303 | 562 |
| New Brunswick, | 25 | 8 | 27 | 1902 | 417 |
| Philadelphia, | 29 | 1 | 32 | 1911 | 650 |
| New Castle, | 25 | 3 | 34 | 1917 | 139 |
| Carlisle, | 20 | 1 | 29 | 2501 | 293 |
| Baltimore, | 12 | — | 8 | 432 | 618 |
| Huntingdon, | 8 | — | 25 | 1385 | 41 |
| Northumberland, | 5 | 1 | 15 | 750 | 22 |
| Redstone, | 19 | — | 41 | 831 | 111 |
| Ohio, | 25 | 3 | 48 | 3020 | 140 |
| Erie, | 11 | 1 | 39 | 518 | 52 |
| Hartford, | 9 | — | 25 | — | 28 |
| Grand River, | 7 | — | 13 | 281 | 14 |
| Winchester, | 9 | 2 | 16 | 592 | 310 |
| Hanover, | 16 | 2 | 22 | 254 | 88 |
| Lexington. No report. | | | | | |
| Transylvania, | 14 | — | 22 | 540 | 22 |
| West Lexington, | 10 | 1 | 23 | 319 | 28 |
| Union. No report. | | | | | |
| Muhlenburg. No report. | | | | | |
| West Tennessee. No report. | | | | | |
| Lancaster, | 10 | 1 | 32 | 503 | 73 |
| Washington, | 12 | — | 28 | 1238 | 255 |
| Miami, | 9 | 1 | 21 | 680 | 67 |
| Orange, | 10 | 4 | 18 | 1109 | 216 |
| Concord, | 13 | 3 | 48 | 1114 | 58 |
| Fayetteville, | 10 | — | 26 | 1636 | 140 |
| South Carolina, | 9 | 3 | 27 | 760 | 45 |
| Hopewell. No report. | | | | | |
| Harmony, | 16 | 2 | 30 | 547 | 149 |
| Total, | 520 | 59 | 859 | 39,685 | $7,317 |

## 1816.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 16*th*, 1816.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. William Neill, D. D., the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from Heb. xiii. 17, last clause of the verse.

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA—The Rev. Henry Ford, and Rev. Samuel Parker. Mr. Joseph Waldo, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ONONDAGA—The Rev. Matthew Harrison.

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. Lyman Barrett, and Rev. James H. Hotchkin. Mr. Robert Porter, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF CHAMPLAIN—The Rev. Nathaniel Hewit.

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Andrew Oliver, and Rev. Eli F. Cooley. Messrs. William Williams, and Daniel Chapman, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., and Rev. Nathaniel S. Prime. Mr. Daniel Sayre, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D., and Rev. William Neill, D. D. Mr. Nehemiah Bassett, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDONDERRY—The Rev. Ephraim P. Bradford.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Artemas Dean, Rev. Isaac Van-Doren, and Rev. Ezra Fisk. Messrs. Adam Millshaugh, Abraham G. Blauvelt, and Daniel Bailey, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., Rev. Philip Whelpley, and Rev. Matthew L. R. Perrine. Dr. John B. Rodgers, and Mr. Zachariah Lewis, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Zachariah Greene.

PRESBYTERY OF JERSEY—The Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve, Rev. Henry Cook, Rev. Elias Riggs, and Rev. William A. McDowell. Messrs. Ebenezer Fairchild, Peter A. Johnson, and Amos Harrison, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., Rev. Joseph L. Shafer, and Rev. Robert Finley. Messrs. Samuel Holcomb, and William Kennedy, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. George C. Potts, Rev. William Latta, Rev. James P. Wilson, D. D., Rev. William Dunlap, and Rev. Ezra S. Ely. Messrs. James Stuart, Joseph Montgomery, John McMullin, Thomas Latimer, and Robert Smith, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. John R. Slemons, Rev. John E. Latta, Rev. Stephen Boyer, Rev. Samuel Bell, and Rev. Samuel Parke. Mr. Leonard Vandegrift, and Dr. John S. Martin, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Robert Cathcart.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. Thomas L. Birch, Rev. Thomas C. Searle, Rev. John Brackenridge. Mr. James Irvine, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND—The Rev. Samuel Henderson.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. John Coulter.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. William Swan, and Rev. Robert Patterson.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. Samuel Tait.

PRESBYTERY OF LANCASTER—The Rev. Thomas D. Baird.

PRESBYTERY OF GRAND RIVER—The Rev. John Seward.

PRESBYTERY OF HARTFORD—The Rev. Joshua Beer.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. James Harvey, and Rev. Obadiah Jennings.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. Samuel B. Wilson, and Rev. Samuel D. Hoge. Mr. John Mark, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. John H. Rice, and Rev. Benjamin H. Rice. Mr. William Baird, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—The Rev. Robert H. Anderson, and Rev. Robert Logan.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST LEXINGTON—The Rev. James Blythe.

PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—The Rev. James Hall, D. D.

PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—The Rev. Samuel B. Robertson. Mr. James C. Barnes, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF MIAMI—The Rev. James Kemper.

PRESBYTERY OF MUHLENBURG—The Rev. Daniel Comfort.

The following delegates from the different Associations connected with this Assembly, also attended, and having produced certificates of their appointment, they took their seats as members, viz:

Of the General Association of the State of Connecticut—Rev. John Marsh, D. D., Rev. Jonathan Miller, Rev. Daniel Smith.

Of the General Association of Massachusetts proper—Rev. Samuel Spring, D. D., Rev. Timothy M. Cooley.

Of the General Association of New Hampshire—Rev. Ephraim P. Bradford.

Of the General Convention of Vermont—Rev. Sylvester Sage.

The Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, and Temporary Clerk, and the Rev. James Blythe, D. D., was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart, Temporary Clerk.

The Rev. Messrs. John B. Slemons, John E. Latta, Stephen Boyer, Samuel Bell, and Samuel Park; and Mr. Leonard Vandegrift, and Dr. John S. Martin, ruling elders, commissioners from the Presbytery of New Castle, having neglected to bring with them their commissions, but sufficient testimony being given that they had been duly commissioned, they were received as members, and accordingly took their seats.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to endeavour to procure a more convenient place for the sitting of the Assembly than the church heretofore occupied by them, reported that the corporation of the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, has made an offer to them for the accommodation of the Assembly of a house lately erected by them adjoining their church.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to the corporation of the aforesaid church for their generous offer.

The minutes of the last Assembly were read.

Drs. Hall and Romeyn, the Rev. Messrs. Timothy M. Cooley, Shafer, Dunlap, John H. Rice, Tait, and Kemper, and Messrs. Blauvelt, Vandegrift, and Jennings, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

*Resolved*, That a free conversation on the state of religion be the order of the day for next Monday.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer, and other religious exercises; and that Drs. Wilson, Neill, and Rogers, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, in the house offered by the corporation of this church for the accommodation of the Assembly.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 17th,* 1816, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures brought in an extract from the minutes of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, on the subject of forming classes of young people for studying and reciting the Bible, which being read, was committed to Drs. Woodhull, Neill, and Spring, Mr. Sayre and Dr. Rodgers, who were directed to report to the Assembly on the subject as soon as convenient.

*Resolved,* That Drs. Blatchford and Romeyn, and Mr. Stuart, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva.

That Messrs. Barrett, William Latta, and John McMullin, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

That Dr. Nott, Mr. Potts, and Mr. Montgomery, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

That Mr. Kemper, Dr. Woodhull, and Mr. Barnes, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

That Messrs. Benjamin Rice, Gildersleeve, and Harrison, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

That Messrs. Robertson, Patterson, and Dr. Martin, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

That Messrs. Finley, Huntingdon, and Jennings, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

That Messrs. John H. Rice, Henderson, and Mark, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio.

That Messrs. Bell, Fisk, and Vandegrift, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina.

That Messrs. Birch, Boyer, and Kennedy, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia.

Mr. Ely resigned his seat to the Rev. George W. Janvier, the principal mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Janvier took his seat as a member.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and Rev. George C. Potts, were appointed a committee to make extracts from the minutes of this Assembly to be printed.

Messrs. Finley and Lewis were appointed a committee to ascertain from the Treasurer the amount of the Commissioners' Fund, and to make a distribution of it, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

The Synodical and Presbyterial reports were called for, and Messrs. Prime, Fisk, and Slemons, were appointed a committee to receive their reports, and examine them, and read to the Assembly those parts which they may think necessary to be read, and prepare a statement to be transcribed into the Compendious View.

The reports of the Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, were called for, and Dr. Blatchford, Mr. Rice, and Mr. Robert Smith, were appointed a committee to prepare a statement, exhibiting a general view of these reports, and the decisions of the Assembly upon them severally.

A number of copies of the extracts from the minutes of the General Association of Massachusetts proper, were presented to the Assembly.

*Resolved,* That a copy be given to each of the Synods, and that one be retained for the use of the Assembly.

And they were disposed of accordingly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. James Buchanan, of the Presbytery of Carlisle, the Rev. John R. Thompson, D. D., of the Presbytery of Harmony, and Mr. Benjamin Hayden, a ruling elder, from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The following extract from the minutes of the General Association of New Hampshire, was received and read, viz:

" Voted, that the delegates from this General Association to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, be instructed to propose to that respected body, that this Association should in future be represented in that Assembly by only one delegate. True copy from the minutes.

JOHN H. CHURCH, Sec'y."

*Resolved*, That the subject of this extract be committed to Drs. Blatchford and Romeyn.

And it was accordingly committed.

A communication from the Presbytery of Harmony, relative to the restoration of Dr. Kollock to the office of the gospel ministry, was received and read.

*Resolved*, That this communication be committed to Drs. Woodhull, Spring, Hall, Nott, Wilson, and Romeyn, and Messrs. Finley, Sage, Daniel Smith, and John H. Rice.

And it was accordingly committed.

The Rev. Stephen Porter, one of the delegates appointed to attend the General Association of New Hampshire, and who was also appointed to attend the General Convention of Vermont, reported that he had attended agreeably to his appointment.

The following persons were chosen and appointed to serve as a Standing Committee of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia and its vicinity, Drs. Green, Alexander, Wilson, and Janeway, Messrs. Potts, and Skinner, Messrs. Boudinot, Hazard, Connelly, Haslett, and Robert Smith.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. David Higgins.

Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Jonas Coe.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, Rev. James Richards.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. Robert Cathcart.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. Elisha McCurdy.

Of the Synod of Virginia, Rev. John H. Rice.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe, D. D.

Of the Synod of Ohio, Rev. Robert G. Wilson.

Of the Synod of North Carolina, Rev. James Hall, D. D.

Of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D.

Nominations were made for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, and the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

The committee to which was referred the extract from the minutes of the General Association of New Hampshire, reported, and the report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

" That after due deliberation they think, that the articles of union between the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and the General Association of New Hampshire, require that the Assembly should hereafter only send one delegate to the aforesaid Association.

Ordered, That a copy of this minute be forwarded to the Association of

New Hampshire by the delegate who may be chosen to attend the next meeting of said Association.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. James Hoge, of the Presbytery of Washington, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

An extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, relative to the Notes appended to the Confession of Faith, was overtured, and committed to Drs. Wilson, Woodhull, Blatchford, and Nott, and Mr. Finley.

The order of the day was postponed with a view to the proposal of the following resolution, which was adopted, viz :

"Whereas, the sittings of the General Association of Connecticut are usually at no great distance from some parts of the Presbyterian church, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the rule on this article, so far as respects the General Association of Connecticut, be repealed, and that the delegates to that body hereafter bear their own expenses; and it is hereby accordingly repealed."

Nominations for delegates to attend the General Association of Connecticut and Massachusetts proper, were made, it being understood that the nominations made yesterday for delegates to attend the General Association of New Hampshire, and the General Convention of Vermont, should continue valid.

The election of the aforesaid delegates was made the order of the day for Monday morning next.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany reported, and the book was approved to page 57, inclusive.

The committee to which was referred the overture from the Synod of New York and New Jersey, on forming classes of young people for studying and reciting the Bible, reported, and their report being read, was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Mr. Finley, and Dr. Romeyn.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Romeyn, Nott, and Janeway, and Messrs. John H. Rice, Miller, and Swan, be a committee to revise the system pursued by the Committee of Missions, and report to the Assembly such amendments as may appear to them desirable for securing the more complete success of our missionary exertions.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and the book was approved to page 345.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva, reported, and the examination of the book was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of Dr. Nott; and the committee were instructed to report on some particular minutes which appeared to require the attention of the Assembly.

The agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the funds of the Theological Seminary, were called upon to report what they had severally done pursuant to their appointment; and Messrs. Huntingdon and Searle were appointed a committee to receive the reports after they should be read, and make a statement of the results of the agency, and report it to the Assembly.

After considerable progress had been made in the business the farther attention to it was made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

The Committee of Missions appeared in the Assembly, and made their first report, and it was committed to Drs. Blatchford, and Romeyn, who were directed to report to the Assembly the several particulars contained in the report, which require the attention of the Assembly.

Adjourned till Monday morning, at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Samuel Bayard, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Buchanan resigned his seat to the Rev. Alexander Boyd, the principal mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Boyd took his seat as a member.

Mr. William P. Beattie, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly, and not having his commission with him, but sufficient testimony having been given that he had been duly commissioned, he took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day for this morning, an election was held for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, and the following persons were duly chosen to attend, viz: the Rev. James P. Wilson, D. D., the Rev. Eli F. Cooley, and the Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve, to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut; the Rev. Eli F. Cooley, and the Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve, to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Massachusetts proper; and the Rev. William A. McDowell to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire, and also to attend the next meeting of the General Convention of Vermont.

*Resolved*, That the usual allowance for defraying their expenses, be made to the delegates appointed to attend the General Associations of Massachusetts proper, and of New Hampshire, and the General Convention of Vermont.

Messrs. Harrison and Kennedy obtained leave of absence, after this morning's session, during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to receive communications on the subject of the state of religion; and Dr. Thompson, and Messrs. Timothy M. Cooley and Jennings, were appointed a committee to prepare a connected narrative of the information which may be received on the subject, and lay it before the Assembly.

After considerable progress made in the business, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. John E. Latta resigned his seat to the Rev. James Magraw, and Mr. Bell resigned his seat to the Rev. John Burton, the principals mentioned in their commissions; and Mr. Magraw and Mr. Burton took their seats as members.

Mr. Robert Evans, a ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly, and not having his commission with him, but sufficient testimony having been produced that he had been duly commissioned, he took his seat as a member.

Dr. Janeway and Rev. James K. Burch were appointed to supply the pulpit of Dr. Wilson.

Rev. Samuel T. Mills and Rev. Noah Coe were appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Cooley.

Rev. Hosea Hillyer and Rev. Gershom Williams were appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Gildersleeve, and

Rev. John McDowell and Rev. Amzi Armstrong were appointed to supply Mr. William A. McDowell's pulpit; during their necessary attention to their respective delegations.

Dr. Miller, and Messrs. Janeway and Finley, were appointed a committee to prepare and have published subscription papers for the reprinting of the printed extracts of the minutes of the General Assembly.

The business left unfinished in the morning, (viz: the receiving of communications on the state of religion,) was resumed and finished.

Mr. Bradford obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 21*st*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. William Neill, D. D., for the missionary sermon, which, by their appointment, he preached last evening.

An overture containing an appeal made by Mr. George Bourne, from a decision of the Presbytery of Lexington, was brought in by the Committee of Overtures, and being read was committed to Drs. Nott, Blatchford, and Mr. Benjamin H. Rice, who were instructed to report to the Assembly on the subject, as soon as convenient.

An overture from the Presbytery of Baltimore on the subject of a constitutional quorum of Presbytery, being brought in, was read, and committed to Drs. Wilson, Neill, and Rodgers; and they were directed to report on the subject to the Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the first report of the Committee of Missions, to select from it the particulars which require the attention of the Assembly, reported; and their report being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, 1. That the appointment of Missionaries made by the Committee of Missions last year, be approved.

2. That it be recommended to the members of this Assembly, and the ministers, elders, and other members of the Presbyterian Church to adopt prompt measures for increasing the missionary Fund.

3. That the Trustees be directed to issue warrants in favour of the following missionaries for the sums annexed to their names, viz:

Rev. William Clark, $50.00. Rev. Hippocrates Rowe, 68.75. Rev. David Dixon, 16.65. Rev. John Davenport, 38.00. Rev. Harvey Talcot, 53.33. Rev. James McGready, 63.50. Rev. James Wright, 39.42. Rev. John Boyd, 72.69. Rev. William Hodge, 26.25. Rev. Archibald Steele, 54.17. Rev. Nathan H. Hall, 30.00. Rev. Samuel Doak, 30.86. Rev. Colin McIver, 80.00. Rev. Dr. I. Hall, 33.00. Rev. Humphrey Hunter, 23.00. Rev. Samuel Tait, 20.50. Rev. Joshua Johnston, 18.82. Mr. John Covert, 75.00. Rev. Thomas Moore, 57.20. Rev. Royall Phelps, 75.60. Mr. Calvin Wait, 99.15. Rev. Thomas Kennon, 53 84. Mr. Eli Smith, 119.68. Rev. James Kemper, 73.12½. Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley, 17.50. Rev. Thomas Cleland, 30.33. Rev. John Lyle, 73.00. Rev. James Hughes, 70.69. Do. do., 127.00., for boarding Indian children, $197.69.

4. That the Trustees be directed to issue a warrant in favour of Rev. Gideon Blackburn for the payment of $147.

5. *Resolved*, That the balances due to those missionaries who would other-

wise suffer a loss by the difference of value between the paper of the northern and southern banks, be made up to them by allowance of discount, should there not be sufficient northern paper in the hands of the Treasurer to pay their claims."

The committee to which was referred the overture from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, relative to notes appended to the Confession of Faith, reported, and their report being read, was adopted. Their report was afterwards reconsidered, and is therefore not here recorded.

The committee to which was referred the overture relative to the restoration of Dr. Kollock, reported, and their report having been read, was recommitted to the same committee.

The committee appointed to prepare a minute stating the attention which the Presbyteries appeared to have paid to the resolutions of the Assembly in relation to the selection of young men for the ministry, and providing funds for their education, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That from the several votes of the house on the subject, the Presbyteries of Cayuga, Onondaga, Geneva, Oneida, Columbia, Albany, Londonderry, Hudson, New York, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, Baltimore, Redstone, Erie, Ohio, Lancaster, Hartford, Winchester, Hanover, Lexington, West Lexington, Muhlenburg, Transylvania, Washington, and Miami, have fully attended to the recommendations of the Assembly.

That the Presbyteries of Champlain, Northumberland, Huntingdon Grand River, Fayetteville, and Harmony, have not carried the recommendation of the Assembly into effect, but have assigned such reasons as were satisfactory to the Assembly.

That no reports have been received from the Presbyteries of Hopewell, Union, Orange, Concord, South Carolina, Abingdon, and West Tennessee.

That although the reasons offered by the Presbytery of Huntingdon were satisfactory to the Assembly for not having heretofore complied with the recommendation of the Assembly, it is hereby earnestly recommended to the said Presbytery to attend to this duty in future.

That from the information derived from the whole of the reports submitted on this subject, it appears that there are at present thirty-five young men of the description contemplated by the Assembly, under the care of the Presbyteries. And that,

Whereas, comparatively few official written reports have been presented to the Assembly from the several Presbyteries on this subject, it is enjoined upon them in future, to send written reports, distinctly stating the exertions which they make from year to year."

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva, reported, and the report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That they have examined the same, and found them generally kept with care. That they contain a protest signed by a number of members of the Synod of Geneva, against a decision of that Synod, excluding the Presbytery of Geneva from voting on the question, Whether their own records should be attested by the Moderator of the Synod as approved. Your committee were, however, of opinion that the decision of the Synod was consonant to the prevalent usage of the judicatures of the Presbyterian Church, as well as to the usage of other analogous bodies in similar cases, and that it ought therefore to be approved. But though your committee were of this opinion, they doubted the correctness of the order given by the Synod to the Presbytery of Geneva, to reconsider their proceedings on the subject of the admission of the Rev. Shipley Wells, a constituent member of that Presbytery, which order, though it be not appealed from, appears to have given rise to the protest in question.

The Synod of Geneva were, beyond doubt, in the opinion of your committee, competent to censure the Presbytery of Geneva for admitting hastily and on slight evidence, into their body, an unworthy, or even a suspicious character. But it is, in the opinion of your committee, equally clear, that the right of deciding on the fitness of admitting Mr. Wells, a constituent member of the Presbytery of Geneva, belonged to the Presbytery itself, and, that having admitted him, no matter how improvidently, that their decision was valid and final. The individual admitted became a member in full standing, nor could the Presbytery, though it should reconsider, reverse its own decision, or in any way sever the member so admitted from their body, except by a regular process.

Your committee, therefore, recommend that the records of the Synod of Geneva be approved to page 79, with the exception of the above order.

Your committee further report, that the Synod of Geneva request the Assembly to give them information as to the method to be pursued in carrying into effect a sentence of excommunication against a deposed minister.

Your committee have not been able to obtain any satisfactory information as to the most approved method of procedure in such cases, and they have not ventured to sketch hastily even the outlines of an answer to be given by this Assembly to the above request. They recommend however the following resolutions:

*Resolved,* That Drs. Romeyn, Alexander, and Miller be a committee to re-examine our forms of process, and to prepare and recommend such additions and explanations as may appear needful and expedient, and report the same to the next General Assembly."

The order of the day, viz: the farther hearing of the reports of agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the funds of the Theological Seminary, was called up and finished.

*Resolved,* That the hearing of the report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary be the order of the day for the afternoon.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia reported, and the book was approved to page 94.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Park resigned his seat to the Rev. John D. Perkins, the alternate mentioned in his commission.

The Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., from the Presbytery of New Brunswick appeared in the Assembly; and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Janvier resigned his seat to Mr. Ely, and Mr. Stuart resigned his seat to Mr. John W. Scott, the alternates mentioned in their commission; Messrs. Ely and Scott took their seats as members.

Mr. John Annin, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

Letters from the Rev. William Boardman, and the Rev. James Buchanan, two of the delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of Connecticut, were received, stating that they had attended; and from the minutes of the Association it appeared, that the Rev. Daniel A. Clark, the other delegate, had also attended.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio reported, and the book was approved to page 48.

*Resolved,* That the arrangements of this Assembly be hereafter so made, that there shall be but one session of the house in a day.

The Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary reported, and their report being read, was committed to Drs. Blatchford and Nott, and Mr. Finley, who were instructed to report to the Assembly the particular parts of the report which require the attention of the Assembly.

Information was received that the committee appointed by the last Assembly to dispose of the interest accruing from certain moneys in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, had performed the duty assigned them.

*Resolved,* That the Rev. Isaac V. Brown, and Rev. William C. Schenck, be a committee to dispose of said interest for the current year.

*Resolved,* That Mr. Hotchkin, Drs. Blatchford and Romeyn, Messrs. Potts, Patterson, John H. Rice, Drs. Blythe, Hall, Thompson, and Mr. Kemper, be a committee to report some plan for more extensively circulating the Confession of Faith and the Book of Discipline of our Church.

*Resolved,* That the report of the committee appointed on the subject of the Notes appended to the Confession of Faith, be reconsidered. After some reconsideration and discussion, it was committed to Dr. Green, and Messrs. Finley and Lewis.

*Resolved,* That Drs. Neill, Hall, Romeyn, Thompson, and Wilson, and Messrs. William Latta, Patterson, Robertson, Hoge, and Ford, be a committee to report a plan for more extensively circulating the printed extracts of the proceedings of the Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The following question, viz: "Ought baptism, on the profession and promise of the master, to be administered to the children of those slaves who are not communicants?" was overtured and committed to Mr. Timothy M. Cooley, Drs. Spring, and Romeyn, and Messrs. Hoge and VanDoren.

An overture from the Presbytery of Baltimore, relative to the title of ministers without charges to seats in church judicatures, was brought in, and being read, was committed to Messrs. John H. Rice, Baird, and Bayard.

*Resolved,* That no election be held this year for Trustees of the General Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read and amended was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

1. "*Resolved,* That the Directors of the Seminary be, and they hereby are authorized to proceed with the erection of the edifice commenced by the order of the last Assembly; and, if possible, to raise the walls and put on the roof during the present year.

2. *Resolved,* That in addition to the appropriation made by the last Assembly, the further sum of twelve thousand dollars be placed at the disposal of the Directors for this purpose.

3. *Resolved,* That . . . . be a committee to devise and report to the Assembly, as soon as possible, the best method of raising funds to meet the exigencies of the Seminary; and that the said committee be also requested to

report a draught of an address from the Assembly to the churches under their care on this subject, in which the exertions of the respective benevolent associations in favour of the Seminary during the last year be suitably noticed.

4. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to the pious and liberal founders of the Scholarships, reported to the Assembly by the Board of Directors, and that the Stated Clerk be ordered to forward a copy of the foregoing resolution.

*Resolved*, That the interest of any funds now in the hands of the Trustees of the General Assembly, for the support of indigent theological students and that may hereafter accrue, be and hereby is, put under the control, and subject to the order of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary.

*Resolved*, That the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars, in addition to the unexpended balance of last year's appropriation be, and hereby is, appropriated for the expenses of the Theological Seminary for the current year.

Dr. Green stated to the Assembly that he had received a letter from Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., in which Dr. Flinn requested Dr. Green to state to the General Assembly, that he resigned his seat as a Director of the Theological Seminary. The Assembly, out of respect to Dr. Flinn, and in consideration of his liberality to the Seminary, did not agree to accept his resignation.

*Resolved*, That as the term for which the following Directors of the Theological Seminary, viz: Drs. Woodhull, Blythe, and Inglis, and Messrs. Freeman, Hillyer, Chester, and Henry Dwight, ministers, and Messrs. Neilson, Vancleve, and Lewis, elders, has expired, an election be held for seven ministers, and three elders, to fill up the Board of Directors.

Nominations were made of persons to supply the aforesaid vacancy, and the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow.

The committee appointed to prepare a connected narrative of the information received on the state of religion, reported, and their report being read, and amended in part, was returned to the same committee to be read as part of the religious exercises to be performed this evening.

Dr. Woodhull resigned his seat to the Rev. George S. Woodhull, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual account as settled and approved by the committee of the Trustees, which was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

Mr. Henderson resigned his seat to the Rev. Asa Dunham, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

Mr. Vandegrift obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to which was recommitted the subject of a communication from the Presbytery of Harmony, relative to the restoration of Dr. Kollock, reported. After considerable discussion of their report, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. William Latta resigned his seat to the Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, D. D., the alternate mentioned in their commission.

Mr. Sayre obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The Concert of Prayer was held last evening, and the audience was solemn and unusually large.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported, and the book was approved to page 156.

*Resolved*, That the narrative of the state of religion be prepared for the press by the committee which had drafted it, with the addition of Messrs. William McDowell, Lewis, and Bayard.

The committee to which was referred the overture from the Presbytery of Baltimore, in the following words, viz: "Are ministers without charges constituent members of our church judicatures, and have they an equal voice with settled pastors and ruling elders of congregations in ecclesiastical governments?" reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"In the judgment of this Assembly, this question is answered affirmatively. Chap. IX. sect. 2, of the Form of Government of the Presbyterian Church in these words: 'A Presbytery consists of all the ministers, and one ruling elder from each congregation within a certain district.'"

It being the order of the day, the election was held for Directors of the Theological Seminary to fill up the Board. The ballots being taken, were committed to Messrs. Benjamin Rice, Woodhull, and Lewis, to read them, and to report to the Assembly the number of the votes given to the several candidates.

The committee to which was recommitted the letter from the Presbytery of Harmony, relative to the restoration of Dr. Kollock, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The General Assembly sympathize with you in the painful business detailed to them, and lament the unpleasant events which have taken place relative to Dr. Kollock. And it would afford the Assembly no small degree of pleasure fully to comply with the request of the Presbytery, and in such manner as to remove their difficulties, and heal the wounds which have been inflicted. It will be admitted by all, that the decisions of the Assembly should be marked with correctness and wisdom; and it will be as generally admitted, that it is highly needful to enable them to do this, that they have a correct and clear view of the cases or facts on which they are to decide.

The Presbytery of Harmony request the Assembly to examine their conduct, and to censure or support them, as they shall appear to have done right or wrong. The Assembly are ready to do this, and it is believed, will cheerfully do it, so soon as the records of the Presbytery of Harmony which relate to this subject, shall be fully before them.

In the mean time, it is with pleasure that the Assembly reflect that the Presbytery of Harmony, by carrying this subject to the Synod of which they are a constituent part, may probably obtain a more speedy relief than they could receive in the event of waiting for the decision of the next General Assembly.

Rev. Brethren, we pray that you may have direction from above, and all prosperity in the Lord."

The Committee of Missions appeared in the Assembly, and made their second report; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the following missionaries be appointed, and that the following Presbyteries be authorized to employ missionaries, on missionary ground, within their respective bounds:

1. The Rev. James Johnston, two months.
2. Rev. Ashbel Parmlee, two months.
3. Rev. Thomas Kennan, two months.

These missionaries are to itinerate within the bounds of the Presbytery of Champlain, and to receive directions in regard to their routes, from that Presbytery.

4. Rev. John Monteith, three months, in Detroit, and one month on missionary ground on his way.

5. The Presbytery of Columbia to employ a missionary two months, in their northern region.

6. Rev. John Davenport for two months. His route to be prescribed by the Presbytery of Onondaga.

7. Rev. Matthew Harrison, three months, in the counties of Courtland, Broome, Tioga, Seneca, Steuben, and Allegheny, New York.

8. Rev. William McMillan, two months. His route to be prescribed by the Presbytery of Albany.

9. The Presbytery of Hudson to direct a mission of four months, on missionary ground within their limits, and to divide the time among the missionaries as they may judge most conducive to the interests of the mission.

10. The Presbytery of New Brunswick, to employ a missionary two months.

11. The Committee of Missions to employ a missionary three months, between the Delaware river and the Atlantic ocean.

12. Rev. John Gloucester three months, among the blacks in Philadelphia.

13. Mr. Backus Wilbur, two months. Beginning his mission on the waters of the Monongahela, he is to pass through Tygart's Valley, and to visit the settlements on Little Kenhawa, and on the Great Kenhawa.

14. Mr. Backus Wilbur, two months. From the mouth of the Wabash to Kaskaskias; and in this place, particularly, he is to labour.

15. Mr. Wells Andrews, two months, in the counties lying between Chambersburg and Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

16. Mr. Wells Andrews, two months. Beginning his mission from the forks of the Susquehanna, he is to pursue his course up the East Branch, to the line which divides Pennsylvania from New York.

17. Rev. James McGready, three months, in the Indiana Territory, in the counties of Clark, Harrison, Gibson, and Knox.

18. Rev. Samuel T. Scott, three months, in the Illinois Territory, at discretion.

19. Rev. Thomas E. Hughes, two months, in the counties of Wayne, Richland, and Huron, in the state of Ohio.

20. Rev. James Hughes, four months, in the vicinity of Urbana, and to the Indians in and about Lewistown.

21. Rev. Robert Semple, one month, on the head waters of the Muskingum.

22. Rev. John Lyle, three months. Commencing his route at the mouth of the Kentucky River, he is thence to proceed up the Ohio, visiting the settlements about Big Bone Lick, and all that tract of country between the Ohio and the counties of Scott, Harrison, Bourbon, and Montgomery, up to the mouth of Sandusky.

23. Rev. Samuel Brown, four months, in the Missouri Territory, on a route through Kentucky, and the Indiana, and Illinois Territories, at discretion.

24. The Committee of Missions, to send a missionary two months, in compliance with the request of the Missionary Society of East Tennessee.

25. Rev. William Hodge, two months, in the counties of Logan, Warren, and Allen, Kentucky.

26. Rev. Archibald Steel, one month, within the Presbytery of Miami, on the route pursued by him last year.

27. Rev. Thomas Cleland, two months, in the Indiana Territory, and on other missionary ground at discretion.

28. Rev. Samuel Tait, one month within the limits of the Presbytery of Erie.

29. Rev. William Woods, two months, at and in the vicinity of Upper and Lower Sandusky.

30. Rev. Samuel Doak, one month in that tract of country which lies between Engles', or Pepper's Ferry, on New River, and Dandridge, East Tennessee.

31. Rev. James Gallagher, one month in the counties of Hawke, Green, Sullivan, Washington, Carter, Tennessee, and of Washington, Virginia.

32. Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley, one month in the Indiana Territory, and in the bounds of the Presbyteries of Transylvania and Muhlenburg.

33. Rev. James Kemper, one month on the Northern Neck, Virginia, one month in Kentucky, and one month in Ohio.

34. Rev. Colin McIver, for three months, in the neighbourhood of Fayetteville, North Carolina, among the Scottish Highlanders settled in that district.

35. Mr. Eleazer Barrows, six months, on a route to be prescribed by the Presbytery of Orange.

36. Rev. Dr. James Hall, three months, in the western part of North Carolina, at discretion.

37. Mr. Archibald Fairchild, six months, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Concord, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Hall.

38. Mr. Abner Kilpatrick, two months, on a route to be prescribed by the Presbytery of Concord.

39. Mr. John Covert, six months, in South Carolina and Georgia. His route to be prescribed by the Rev. Dr. Flinn, or by the Presbytery of Harmony.

40. Rev. Ezra Fisk, four months, in New Orleans.

41. Rev. John Moreland, four months, in the Mississippi Territory.

42. Rev. William Wylie, three months, in the Missouri Territory, and one month on missionary ground on his way through Ohio, and the Indiana and Illinois Territories.

43. That the Rev. James Hughes be allowed four hundred and fifty dollars for carrying on his mission to the Indians in and about Lewistown, Ohio. And,

44. That the Board of Trust of the Western Missionary Society be allowed three hundred dollars for the purpose of establishing a second school among the Six Nations; and that they be authorized to locate the school in any place among that people which they may deem most suitable, whether it shall fall within or without their bounds.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue warrants for the payment of the sums stated in the foregoing report to be due to missionaries.

The committee to which was referred the following question, viz: "Ought baptism, on the profession and promise of the master, to be administered to the children of slaves?" reported, and their report being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"1. That it is the duty of masters who are members of the church to present the children of parents in servitude to the ordinance of baptism, provided they are in a situation to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, thus securing to them the rich advantages which the gospel provides.

2. That it is the duty of Christ's ministers to inculcate this doctrine, and to baptize all children of this description when presented by their masters."

The committee appointed to count the votes for Directors of the Theological Seminary reported, and from their report it appeared that the following persons were elected, and they are therefore declared to be duly elected for three years, viz: Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., Eliphalet Nott, D. D., Rev. James Blythe, D. D., Rev. James Inglis, D. D., Rev. Asa Hillyer, Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Rev. John Chester, ministers; and Messrs. Zachariah Lewis, and Joseph C. Hornblower, and Dr. John Vancleve, elders.

The committee to which was referred the appeal of Mr. Bourne, from a decision of the Presbytery of Lexington, reported, and their report was read, and after considerable discussion, the farther consideration of the subject was made the order of the day for to-morrow, and the former committee, and Drs. Green, Wilson, and Neill, were appointed a committee to take the papers on the subject, and were directed to report to the Assembly a minute proper to be adopted by them.

*Resolved*, That two thousand copies of the narrative of the state of religion be printed, and that a proof sheet be furnished for the inspection of the Assembly.

Mr. Samuel D. Hoge resigned his seat to the Rev. John B. Hoge, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

Adjourned till half after 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, half-past 8 o'clock, A.M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Hayden obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The following question was proposed to the Assembly for their decision, viz: "Are those parents entitled to the right of having their children baptized who live in the constant neglect of the other sacrament, viz: the Lord's Supper?"

The following answer to this question was, on motion, submitted to the Assembly, viz:

"To the foregoing question, the Assembly answer, that all persons who make such a credible profession of saving faith as to entitle them to the sacrament of baptism, are, by the same profession, entitled to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper; but every church session must judge when, if ever, the neglect of one ordinance is a sufficient ground of suspension, and excommunication from the privilege of church membership."

After a considerable discussion of the subject, the previous question being called for, was put and decided in the negative.

The committee appointed to make a distribution of the moneys paid into the Commissioners' Fund, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That there is due to the commissioners two thousand one hundred and twenty-one dollars and thirty-six cents, allowing them six cents per mile to defray their travelling expenses."

*Resolved*, That the Trustees issue warrants for the payment of the foregoing sum to the several commissioners, as specified in the report of the committee.

The proof sheet of the narrative was brought in; and being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The General Assembly in giving to the churches under their care a detailed account of the state and prosperity of Zion, find themselves affected by mingled emotions, in which joy and gratitude have the ascendency. A view of the operations of Divine Grace in our churches during the past year, clearly demonstrates, not only that God is 'ever mindful of his covenant with his people, that he will not for ever hide his face from the children of his love;' but also, that the time, even the set time to favour many parts of the American Zion has now come. If, when receiving a particular account of God's dealings with his people, we find in some instances, that 'iniquity abounds,' and the love of some who have professed to serve the Lord has waxed cold; that stupidity, lukewarmness, deadness, or vice, have paralysed the arm of religious exertion, or stopped the pulse of religious feeling; the General Assembly feel thankful to the Geat Head of the Church, that they are soon relieved from dwelling on these dark and depressing scenes. A brighter and more animating state of affairs soon arises to notice. Instances, in which the arm of the Lord has been signally revealed to many who had been long sitting in the darkness of spiritual death, or benumbed by a death-like lethargy and indifference to spiritual concerns, gild the prospects, inspire with hope, encourage, and animate us to wait for the divine blessing, in the way of God's appointment, and in the use of those means which he has designated.

In noticing the events which have transpired during the past year, the General Assembly cannot but regard them as characteristic of a new and highly interesting era of the church of Christ. They can state from information received from different sections of the church, that infidelity stalks abroad with a less confident and unblushing aspect, than in times past; that intemperance and profanity have become less frequent, and that a decent and respectful attention is generally paid to the external duties of piety. True it is, that this state of things does not every where prevail. In some sections of the church the people of God are mourning and in tears, because the Sabbath of the Lord is not hallowed; and because, instead of remembering to keep it holy, some continue to do their own pleasure, and attend to secular pursuits on this holy day! Travelling on the Lord's day is not uniformly, nor carefully avoided : and though in some parts of our land, this sin is reprobated and punished, (and the General Assembly mention this fact in the language of commendation, and in hopes, that it will receive notice and imitation,) yet in others it is regarded as of a venial character, and committed with but little compunction! The General Assembly advert to this, for the purpose of expressing the sense which they entertain of it, as a flagrant violation of express and commanded duty; as calculated to provoke the divine indignation, and to bring down the heaviest judgments!

It is with pleasure, however, that the General Assembly can report the harmony, the union, and the peace of the church; the fidelity of its ministers, and the instances of exemplary piety, of fervent zeal, and of generous and devoted attachment to the cause of the Redeemer, which are presented to their notice. 'The garden of God' has been copiously watered with showers of divine grace: many trees planted in it have attained the strength and beauty of the 'cedars of Lebanon,' and brought forth fruit abundantly. Amongst the means which God has especially blessed to the conversion of sinners, and to the edification and increase of his church, *Catechetical Instruction, Sunday Schools, and Bible Classes*, deserve a special notice.

In most congregations, the youthful mind has been directed to that 'form of sound words' contained in the catechisms of our church, and thus supplied with materials to comfort and protect them in riper years, as well as to guide them in the morning of life. If the testimony of experience will be listened to on this head, it will pronounce loudly in favour of communicating instruction by means of catechism; for it proclaims that God has hitherto greatly blessed this mode of imparting religious knowledge.

Sunday Schools also occupy a prominent situation in the details of the occurrences of the past year. In several portions of our land, these schools have been constituted for the instruction of the poor and ignorant. The moments of holy domestic leisure which occur on the Lord's day, are appropriated to this laudable undertaking. Multitudes of the ignorant and the young, having been led to the fountains of human knowledge, and taught to read the word of life, have been conducted by their benevolent instructors to the temple of the living God to seek for that knowledge by which they may 'become wise unto salvation.' In the city of Philadelphia, more than five thousand children, as well as many aged persons, are instructed in this manner. In New York, the youthful pupils exceed four thousand. And when noticing and approving this laudable, and (in our country) novel mode of instructing those who were ready to perish, and had none to help them, it would be ungenerous and unjust not to award the meed of applause where it has been so richly merited, to declare, that 'the daughters of Zion' have done nobly in this undertaking. They have certainly performed a conspicuous and important part, and deserve well of the friends of humanity and religion. They have thus been the honoured instruments of plucking many of our race as brands out of the everlasting burning, and rendering them useful and ornamental members of civil society, and blessings to the Church of God. May the prayers of the widow, and the blessings of the fatherless, attend and stimulate them to farther exertions!

Bible classes have been formed in different sections of the church, and the object of their formation has been to render the young and ignorant familiar with the volume of Holy Writ; and so great has been the aptitude which has been manifested, that some of the children have been able to repeat to their instructors, at a single recitation, several hundred verses of the sacred volume.

Bible and Tract societies have greatly multiplied in our country during the last year. From Georgia to Maine endeavours have been made to convey the word of life, the consolations and support of the gospel, to the remotest cottage on our borders. They who have been long sitting in the darkness of the shadow of death, without the light of revelation, ignorant of what the gospel of Christ has done, and what it can do, are no longer in this distressing situation! The lamp of revelation now shines in many a hitherto gloomy mansion; and illuminates, and directs, and cheers many a hitherto darkened soul! In the distribution of religious tracts, (in which the reality and power of godliness have appeared, as manifested in the lives and death of eminent Christians,) a divine blessing has been evident, and encouragement communicated not to become weary in this species of well-doing.

The General Assembly record with gratification and heartfelt pleasure, the information they have received of the formation of an 'American Bible Society,' a few days since, in the city of New York; and from the unanimity manifested by all denominations of Christians on that occasion, the fervour of zeal displayed, and eagerness manifested by the numerous and highly respectable delegation which attended, to combine their exertions in promoting the best interests of their fellow-men, by furnishing them with the word of Life, they cannot but believe that it is the work of God; that it will stand, and prove a rich blessing to those who may enjoy the fruits of its exertions.

Of the benefits resulting from moral societies the Assembly are fully sensible, and willingly testify their approbation of the object to which their exertions are directed; and when it is stated that these societies have been instrumental, with the divine blessing, in repressing and discountenancing profanity, intemperance, Sabbath-breaking, and other notorious vices, farther inducements need not be mentioned to those who study the peace and prosperity of the Church, and good order of society, to impel them to promote their formation, and to effect their object.

Missionary exertions, during the last year, have been numerous and efficacious. The hearts of many have been opened to 'devise liberal things in behalf of those who are perishing for lack of knowledge.' In addition to the Missionary Societies existing at the time of our last report, several new societies have been formed, and new labourers sent into the whitened fields. The reports received on this subject are of encouraging complexion, and calculated to excite to more vigorous exertions in the gospel vineyard.

By the last General Assembly it was recommended to the churches to join in 'monthly concerts of prayer,' to unite in earnest supplication for the speedy coming of the kingdom of the Redeemer, and for the extension of the triumphs of the gospel of Christ. This recommendation has met with a very general attention. Christians of other denominations than our own, have cordially united with us in this interesting service. God has been entreated of by his people, he has heard their prayers, he has answered their petitions, and blessed their souls.

Several conversions to God in individual cases, and several revivals of religion in societies, may be traced to these seasons of social prayer. In many places 'devout and pious females' have formed themselves into praying societies, and obtained in the discharge of duty, comfort to themselves, and light and direction for others.

The state of the church during the past year; its growth and prosperity; the zeal and diligence of its members; the outpourings of the Spirit of God; the conviction and conversion of multitudes who had hitherto been 'dead in trespasses and sins;' the language of praise which has burst from the mouth of babes and sucklings; these have been of a character calculated to excite the strains of holy gratitude, and to cause us to exclaim, 'These are the Lord's doings, and wondrous in our eyes!'

In passing from south to north, the General Assembly find in most places a decent and respectful attention to the ordinary means of grace; and in some, a special work and extraordinary outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In the city of Philadelphia, a very animating revival commenced in January last. A deep, silent, and awful work, attended by pungent convictions of sinfulness and misery, continued for some length of time. The good work still progresses.

Within the bounds of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the General Assembly have found much to gladden the heart. Trenton and Bound Brook have been visited with times of refreshing from the divine presence. In Baskenridge, the Spirit of the Lord has been poured out in copious effusions. The good work which commenced in the Academy, was soon extended to the church generally. A goodly number of the students of that institution, as well as many others, have joined themselves to the Lord.

In Morristown, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Jersey, a work of grace commenced in August last, which has been slow and gradual in its progress, and deep and solemn in its effect. It yet continues, and the number of its subjects is very considerable.

From the Presbytery of New York, information has been received of a highly gratifying character. In the Brick Church in the city of New York, God has been pleased to pour out his Spirit, and to produce a very general inquiry, 'What shall we do to be saved?' This attention to eternal concerns commenced towards the close of the last year, and has rapidly and steadily increased from that time to the present. The subjects of this work are almost exclusively youth—the majority females, but an unusual proportion of males.

Accounts of a similar character have been received from the Presbytery of

Hudson. In the congregation of Goshen, the revival before existing has greatly increased. In the congregations of Scotchtown, Westown, Florida, and Amity, the marks of divine footsteps have been very visible. Numbers have been brought to bow to the sceptre of King Jesus, and to embrace the humbling doctrines of the cross.

In the city of Albany, a divine influence has been exerted, and the houses of the living God thronged with earnest and devout worshippers. Such also has been the case at Catskill.

The city of Troy, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Columbia, has also been abundantly watered by refreshing showers of heavenly grace, and numbers have been added to the flock of Christ. The hearts of the ministers of the gospel have been filled with joy, and their hands with employment.

As it would swell the details of this report beyond all reasonable bounds, to give a concise narrative of all the revivals of religion which have taken place, within the past year, in the churches under their care, the General Assembly regret they can only mention the names of other Presbyteries within the bounds of which the Spirit of God has been poured out in a remarkable manner. Of this number are the Presbyteries of Winchester, Long Island, Oneida, Onondaga, Champlain, Geneva, and Cayuga.

Whilst detailing the particular growth of the Redeemer's kingdom, the General Assembly rejoice to find a missionary spirit arising in the breasts of the young men who are attached to the Theological Seminary at Princeton, and they cherish a rational hope that this Seminary will prove 'a school of prophets,' who shall proclaim Christ the way of salvation to perishing sinners, and consolation to the weary, waiting soul.

In connection with this subject the Assembly have to state, from information communicated to this body, the existence of a seminary for the instruction of theological students, established at Hampden Sidney, under the patronage of the Synod of Virginia, which, it is hoped, will, in due season, furnish able and faithful labourers in the vineyard of our common Lord.

Several of the colleges of our land have been graciously visited, and the salt of grace cast into these fountains, from which streams may flow to make glad the city of our God. The moral habits of the youth in Union College are very encouraging. Two societies meet every week for social worship, besides occasional meetings for prayer. Several instances of hopeful conversion have occurred in this seminary during the last year.

From Massachusetts proper, we learn, that the concert of prayer, the diffusion of the holy Scriptures and religious Tracts, the propagation of the gospel among the destitute in our own country and in pagan climes, and the suppression of immoral practices, are objects which are cherished with great fervour and success. And we would record with joy and gratitude, the numerous and animating revivals of religion which have blessed many of the congregations in the counties of Hampshire, Hampden, and Berkshire, and in other parts of the State, and which have introduced hundreds into the bosom of the Christian church. The Theological Institution at Andover, is stated to be in a flourishing condition, and a society has been lately formed in that State, which promises to afford efficient aid to pious and indigent young men, whose hearts God has inclined to the gospel ministry.

The General Assembly learn with pleasure, from the delegation from the General Association of Connecticut, that attention to religion in that quarter exceeds any thing of the kind which has ever before been witnessed. About one-sixth part of the whole number of towns in that State have been visited in an extraordinary manner, and multitudes have become the subjects of a lively hope. There, also, Missionary, Bible, Tract, Moral, and Praying societies are numerous and flourishing.

In Vermont, God has not forgotten to be gracious to his church. In the course of the past year, revivals of religion have occurred in a number of towns on the eastern side of the mountain, and also in the western part of the State, particularly in the towns bordering on the lake.

New Hampshire has also been blessed with revivals. In several towns, a special work of grace has been begun, and continues to progress. Concerts for prayer have been attended, and blessed to the conversion of careless sinners, and to the comfort and edification of God's own people!

On a view of the whole, we have reason for adoring gratitude and deep humility. Not unto us, not unto us, but to thy name, O God! shall this glorious and gracious work be ascribed! Many whose heads are whitened with age, who have long borne the heat and burden of the day in the gospel vineyard, declare that never have such exhilarating reports of the prosperity of Zion sounded in their ears, nor such bright prospects met their eyes. Blessed then are your eyes, for what they see; and your ears, for what they hear.

Let all be encouraged to diligence, to watchfulness, and prayer; to wait upon God in the use of his appointed means, and to pray for the special outpouring of his Holy Spirit. Brethren, the promise is sure; wait for it; it will come; it will not tarry!"

The following extract from the minutes of the Directors of the Theological Seminary being submitted to the Assembly was adopted, viz:

"*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the General Assembly, that in all cases of endowment of scholarships in the Theological Seminary, where provision is not otherwise specially made by the persons endowing the same, that the Treasurer of the Trustees of this Assembly be, and he is hereby authorized to receive the principal sums, as well as the several annuities destined for the support of said scholarships, that under the direction of said Trustees he invest the said principal sums, intended as capital, without delay in some productive public stock; the interest on which stock together with the annuities aforesaid, which may from time to time be paid into his hands, he shall hold subject to the order of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary; and that he be, and is hereby directed to keep a distinct and separate account for every scholarship so endowed."

Mr. Birch obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The order of the day was postponed till to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to prepare a statement of the reports of agents, appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the funds of the Theological Seminary reported; and their report being read and amended, is as follows, viz:

"Presbytery of Cayuga—Rev. Hezekiah N. Woodruff. No report.

Presbytery of Onondaga—Rev. Jabez Chadwick, congregation of Cazenovia, collected 76.75. Homer, 3.95. Pompey, 5.63. Rev. Hugh Wallace of Pompey, 1.00. Total collected $87.33.

Presbytery of Geneva—Rev. Henry Axtell, congregation of Geneva, collected 27.00. A young gentleman in the congregation of Wolcot, 5.00. Total collected $32.00.

Presbytery of Oneida—Rev. Henry Dwight. No report.

Presbyteries of Albany and Columbia—William Neill, D. D., congregations of Hudson and Catskill, collected 520.90. Mr. Bebe, Cooperstown, 10.00. Johnstown, subscribed on a paper held by the late Rev. Alexander Monteith, 35.00. Amsterdam by the same, 10.00. Dollar Society, first congregation Albany, 117.62½. Total subscribed, $693.52½. Total collected, $575.90.

Presbytery of Londonderry—Daniel Dana, D. D. No report.

Presbytery of Hudson—Rev. Eliphalet Price and Rev. John Johnston. No report.

Presbytery of New York—James Richards, D. D. No report.

Presbytery of Long Island—Rev. Asa Hillyer, collected, 120.00.

Presbytery of Jersey—Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., first congregation of Newark, Orange, and Bloomfield, sub. 1401.87½, col. 1170.37½. Rev. Jonathan Freeman, first church, Woodbridge, sub. 95.25, col. 45.25. Morristown, sub. 496.75, col. 354.25. South Hanover, sub. 45.75, col. 31.75. Books in Morristown, 12 volumes. Bottlehill, 4 vols. Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., congregation of Elizabethtown in addition to 100.00 by one of the same subscribers before, sub. 1119.00, col. 1088.00. Books, 16 vols. Total subscribed, $3158.37½. Total collected, $2689.12½.

Presbytery of New Brunswick—Rev. David Comfort, 691.50. *Donation from Captain Jonathan Hutchinson by the hand of Rev. Mr. Finley, 5.00. Total collected, $696.50.

Presbytery of Philadelphia—Rev. John McDowell, second Presbyterian church Philadelphia, in addition to 715 dollars, before subscribed and paid by some of the same subscribers, sub. 3542.00, col. 3337.00. Sixth Presbyterian Church Philadelphia, in addition to 100.00 dollars, by one of the same subscribers before, 777.00. Pittsgrove, last year's subscription, 10.00. From two little girls in Morristown, the savings of their pennies for the education of poor and pious youth, 2.50. Books 2 vols. Total collected, $2001.50.

Presbytery of New Castle—Rev. John E. Latta. Subscribed since last return, 152.00. Of which has been collected, 94.00. Received on subscriptions of former years, 51.00. Total sub. 152.00. Total collected, $145.00.

Presbytery of Carlisle—Rev. James Patterson, congregation Harrisburgh, 81.50; congregation Carlisle, sub. 344.69½, col. 329.82½. From Mrs. Dr. Inglis, collected at the Sulphur Springs, Carlisle, while there for the recovery of her health, 18.12½. Upper West Conococheague, sub. 362.50. Chambersburgh, 11.25. Total subscribed, $818.07. Total collected, $440.70.

Presbytery of Baltimore—Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, D. D., 1st Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, 2326.00. From two gentlemen, obtained by the influence of a member of that church, 100.00. 2d Presbyterian Church, 619.00. Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, 450.00. A few individuals in Washington, 70.00. From an individual on the road, 10.00. Presbyterian Church in Georgetown, 730.68. Total collected, $4305.68.

Presbytery of Huntingdon—Rev. Benjamin Linn. No report.

Presbytery of Northumberland—Rev. John B. Patterson. No report.

Presbytery of Ohio—Rev. William Wylie, Lower Buffaloe, sub. 12.50. col. 1.00. Forks of Wheeling, sub. 17.50. West Liberty, sub. 50.00. Cross Creek, sub. 88.33, col. 33.33. Upper Buffaloe, sub. 48.00, col. 32.58½. Pigeon Creek, sub. 70.00, col. 10.00. From Miss M. McKinby, 10. From C. H. Ford, 3. From Dr. D. F. Mitchell, 1. Added of my own, 8½. From the Washington congregation included in Mr. Wylie's district, 130. Total subscribed, $430.41½. Total collected, 221.00.

Presbytery of Redstone—Rev. Elisha McCurdy, Pittsburgh, 32. Cross

---

* Mr. Comfort has still considerable subscriptions not collected; amount not reported.

Roads, Ohio, 21.50. West Liberty, Ohio, 35.00. Lower Buffaloe, Ohio, 11.50. Pigeon Creek, Ohio, 60.00. Upper Buffaloe, Ohio, 17.60. Wheeling, Va. 55.00. Cross Creek, Ohio, 56.00. Rev. James Galbraith, 237.00. total collected, $525.50.

Presbytery of Erie—Rev. Samuel Tait, in all the counties from Pittsburgh to Lake Erie, sub. 204.00, col. 30. $184.00 of the 204.00, was on last year's subscription. Total collected, $30.00.

Presbytery of Hartford—Rev. Thomas E. Hughes. No report.

Presbytery of Lancaster—Rev. John Wright. No report.

Presbytery of Grand River—Rev. Thomas Barr. No report.

Presbytery of Muhlenburg—Rev. William Dickey. No report.

Presbytery of West Tennessee—Rev. Robert Henderson. No report.

Presbytery of South Carolina—Rev. Dr. Waddel. No report.

Presbytery of West Lexington—Rev. Dr. Blythe, Mr. Harris, Washington, Ky., 8.00. Mr. William Dickey, 5.00. Bequest of Stoughton Edwards, of Mercer county, Ky. 100.00. Total collected, $113.

Presbytery of Washington—Rev. James Hoge, Chillicothe, 58.00. Williamsburgh Female Society of Indian Creek. 61.00. Total collected, $119.00.

Presbytery of Union—Rev. John McCampbell. No report.

Presbyteries of Orange, Concord, and Fayetteville—Rev. Dr. Hall, 110.00. Colin McIver, from individuals before reported to the Secretary of the Board. &c., 81.00. New Hanover (Rev. Mr. Tait's congregations), 50.00. Rev. Mr. McNair's congregations subscribed in 1811, 27.00. Rev. Mr. McIntyre's congregation, 6.00. Rev. Mr. Turner's congregation in Fayetteville, 10.00. Appropriated by the Fayetteville Presbytery, 17.00. Total collected, $191.00.

Presbytery of Transylvania—Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley. No report.

Presbytery of Harmony—Rev. John Couser, Midway congregation, B. R., 64.00. Bruington congregation, 63.00. Salem congregation, B. R., 372.00. Bethel congregation, B. R., 130.00. White Bluff congregation, (Ga.) 122.50. Midway congregation, (Ga.) 216.25. Darien congregation, (Ga.) 83.75. Rev. William McWhir, of Sunbury, (Ga.) 100.00. Mrs. Anna Clay, of Savannah, 20.00. Mr. Robert Means, of Beaufort, (S. C.), 50.00. Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., of Charleston, (S. C.), a life subscription of 100.00. per ann. Rev. John Couser, 100.00. Mr. John Legare, of John's Island, 30.00. James Ogilvie, Orator, 20.00. Bethesda Church, of Camden, 80.00. Congregation of Concord, B. R., 71.00. Indian Town congregation, 100.62½. Mount Zion congregation, sub. 75.00, col. 20.00. Augusta congregation, (Ga.) 725.00. Total collected, $2468.12½.

On these bills was a premium, making the whole amount, $2501.68.

Presbytery of Miami—Rev. Matthew G. Wallace, Cincinnati, 10.00. Hamiltown, 11.00. Dayton, 28.00. Springfield, 18.00. Dick's Creek, 8.00. Seven Mile, 4.00. Total collected, $79.00.

Rev. John Brown, of Athens, Clarks county, Georgia, $180.00.

From the Rev. William McMillen, the Assembly acknowledge a donation of land, worth about $750.00.

Two commissioners to this Assembly from the Presbytery of New Brunswick present their mileage to the funds of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, amounting to $13.44.

Dr. Hall reports $100 more subscribed than he stated in the body of this report, $100.00.

A commissioner from the Presbytery of New Castle presents his mileage to the Theological Seminary at Princeton, $19.20.

Dr. Janeway reports as collected $26 from the congregation in Georgetown, not credited in this report.

Total subscribed, $20, 950 07½. Total collected, 20.062 05½.

Thirty-four volumes of books are reported by the agents as presented to the Theological Seminary.

*Agents' expenses.* Mr. Freeman's, 27.75. Dr. Janeway's, 28.00. Mr. Patterson's for supplying pulpit, &c., &c., 50.00. Dr. Miller's, 19.00. Mr. McDowell's, 20.00. Mr. J. E. Latta's, during several years' agency, 35.00. Total expenses of agents in collecting, $179.75."

*Resolved*, That it be, and it hereby is, made the duty of agents appointed to solicit contributions to the Theological Seminary, to lay an account of their expenses in attending to that business before the Assembly, in order that the Treasurer may be authorized to pay the accounts when approved by the Assembly.

The committee appointed to inquire whether some plan cannot be devised for the wider circulation of the Confession of Faith, and of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"1. That it be strictly enjoined on all the Presbyteries under the General Assembly, to endeavour, by such means as upon careful examination shall to them appear best, to promote the diffusion and wider circulation of the Confession of Faith, and Book of Discipline of the Presbyterian Church.

2. That it be recommended to the congregations in our connection to take measures to supply their own poor with the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Book of Discipline of our Church.

3. That the Trustees of the General Assembly be authorized and directed to inquire into the expediency of stereotyping the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Form of Church Government, and to report to the next General Assembly."

The enlarged committee in the case of Mr. Bourne presented their report, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The enlarged committee in the case of Mr. George Bourne do present the following as the third report, the two former having been deemed defective.

Mr. Bourne's petition states a decision to have passed against him in the Lexington Presbytery, which by a supplementary paper, he says was on the 27th of December last, and contained a sentence of deposition, from which, on the next day, he gave notice to the Presbytery that he claimed an appeal to the General Assembly. By his affidavit, taken before an Alderman of this city, he further declares, that he, by the permission of the Presbytery, transcribed the minutes of their proceedings; that he afterwards wrote in form what he denominates an appeal, (meaning, it is presumed, his causes of appeal,) and transmitted it to the Clerk of the Presbytery with a demand of the copy of the records, and of that paper; but that he had received a letter from the Clerk refusing to remove them from the post-office. By his petition, he asks to prosecute his cause before the Assembly, without having first brought his case before the Synod of Virginia; and that if such hearing cannot be granted him at present, that the Assembly will assign him a day. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, 1. That inasmuch as the records of the Lexington Presbytery, the names of the parties to the suit, the charges made before them in writing against Mr. Bourne, the depositions of the witnesses, and other written documents, are not before the Assembly; and as every principle of equity forbids a process in the absence of documents so essential to its being rightly conducted—prayer for a hearing at this time cannot be granted.

2. That inasmuch as the request of Mr. Bourne to be tried on an appeal before the General Assembly rather than the Synod, may be reasonable;

and inasmuch as the words of our Constitution, viz: 'The Assembly shall receive and issue all appeals and references which may be regularly brought before them from the inferior judicatories,' &c., have been interpreted favourably to such a request, the General Assembly do order, that a certified copy of the records of the Lexington Presbytery in this case be duly made, and transmitted to the next Assembly, unless the Synod of Virginia, to which the Assembly can have no objection, shall have previously received the appeal. [But that this constitutional question, as well as the merits of the case, shall remain open for discussion at that time.]

3. That by the 'forms of processes,' &c., Mr. Bourne ought to be 'allowed copies of the whole proceedings' in his case; yet 'the judicatory appealed from' is, by the same rules, 'to send authentic copies of the whole process;' his copy therefore, which he says was taken by himself, but is not shown to the Assembly, is not sufficient; his affidavit is not required by the course of proceeding in this body; and the three papers presented by him are not to be considered as the commencement of a cause, or the entry of an appeal in this judicatory. Nevertheless, Mr. Bourne shall not suffer any inconvenience which the Assembly can prevent, on the account of any failures of the inferior judicatories, if a default should in future appear, on their part, the evidence of such circumstance being not as yet made clear to this Assembly."

A committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, stated to the Assembly, that agreeably to the order of the last Assembly, the Board are about to publish a correct edition of the plan of the Theological Seminary; and therefore they request the Assembly to take into consideration the seventh and ninth articles of the first edition of said plan, and decide thereon, whether they are to make any part of said plan or not.

Whereupon, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That the Board be permitted to publish the seventh article, and that they leave out the ninth article.

The resolution passed by the Assembly, May 27th, 1813, relative to defraying the travelling expenses of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, was amended, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Directors of the Theological Seminary, resident at a remote distance from the place where the Board may in future be noticed to meet, have their travelling expenses defrayed from the funds appropriated to the use of said Seminary; provided that the said allowance shall in no case exceed two dollars for every forty miles; and provided this allowance be not considered as extending to any members of the said Board residing in the cities of New York and Philadelphia, or intermediately in the state of New Jersey, to commissioners attending the General Assembly, nor to persons for whose expenses provision may otherwise be made.

The committee to which was referred the overture from the Synod of New York and New Jersey on forming classes of young people for studying and reciting the Bible, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

" That they consider this a subject of great importance, and deserving the attention and earnest recommendation of the Assembly. Therefore,

*Resolved*, 1. That it be recommended, and it is hereby recommended, earnestly to the ministers and sessions which are in connection with the General Assembly, to pay a special attention to this subject, and provide without delay for the stated instruction of the children and youth in the sacred Scriptures within their respective congregations.

2. That although the particular manner of instruction and recitation in the congregations ought to be left to the discretion of their ministers and sessions respectively; yet as some degree of uniformity is desirable in a busi-

ness of so much magnitude, it is recommended as the most effectual means of promoting the knowledge of the holy Scriptures, that in all our churches, classes be formed of the youth to recite the Scriptures, in regular order; that the recitations, if convenient, be as often as once a week, and from two to five chapters appointed for each recitation; that the youth be examined on,

1. The history of the world, but more especially of the Church of God, and of the heathen nations who were God's agents in accomplishing his purposes towards his Church.

2. Persons noted for their piety or ungodliness, and the effects of their example in promoting or injuring the best interests of mankind.

3. Doctrines and precepts, or 'what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.'

4. Positive ordinances, or the directions which God has given as to the way in which he is to be worshipped acceptably.

5. The particular features of character of which the Spirit of God has given notice, both in wicked and good persons; in the last particularly regarding those who were types of Christ, and in what the typical resemblance consisted.

6. The gradual increase from time to time of information concerning the doctrines contained in the Scriptures; noting the admirable adaptation of every new revelation of doctrine to the increased maturity of the Church. The nature of God's law, its immutability, as constituting an everlasting rule of right and wrong, the full and perfect illustration of its precepts given by Christ.

7. The change which God has made from time to time in the positive ordinances, together with the reasons of that change. The difference between the moral law, and those laws which are positive.

8. The illustrations of the divine perfections in the history, biography, doctrines, and precepts, together with the positive ordinances of the Scriptures.

9. The practical lessons to regulate our conduct in the various relations of life.

On all these particulars the meaning of the words used in Scripture must be ascertained, that thus we may understand what we read.

*Resolved*, 3. That the Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly be directed to take order on this subject, and they are hereby informed that this is not to come in the place of learning the catechism of our Church, but to be added to it, as an important branch of religious education."

The committee appointed to prepare subscription papers, for republishing the printed extracts of the minutes of the General Assembly, brought into the Assembly a number of said papers, and submitted them to the consideration of the Assembly: Whereupon it was

*Resolved*, That the several Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly, take order for the circulation of the aforesaid subscription papers, and that after subscribers have been procured, they be forwarded to Mr. B. B. Hopkins.

The committee to which was recommitted the overture from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, relative to the notes to the Confession of Faith, reported, and their report being read, and for some time discussed, was again recommitted to the same committee.

The following resolutions were read, and by order of the Assembly were laid on the table:

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this General Assembly, a sentence passed by an inferior judicatory, does not take effect on an individual who has appealed to a higher judicatory, until said sentence has been affirmed.

*Resolved*, That an appeal may be made directly from a Presbytery to the

General Assembly, and admitted by the same, when no meeting of the Synod to which said Presbytery belongs, shall intervene between the meetings of said Presbytery and the next General Assembly.

Mr. Magraw resigned his seat to Mr. John E. Latta.

Messrs. Burton and Evans obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Robert H. Chapman, D. D., of the Presbytery of Orange, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The committee appointed to devise ways and means of raising funds for the Theological Seminary, reported; and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"1. *Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the minister and session of each congregation, under the care of the General Assembly, to establish without delay a dollar society for the term of five years, in aid of the contingent fund of the Seminary.

2. That for the purpose of creating a permanent fund for the Theological Seminary, two sets of subscription papers be sent down, to each minister and session; that the first be headed in the following words, viz: "We whose names are hereunto annexed, promise each to pay to. . . . . for the permanent fund of the Theological Seminary of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the sum of one hundred dollars, in five annual instalments. That the heading of the second be varied from the first, by the insertion of fifty dollars, instead of one hundred; and that of the fund thus raised, the interest only shall ever be appropriated to the uses of the Seminary.

3. That the agents be appointed to solicit donations and subscriptions in those congregations, which have not yet been visited by any agent; and that the moneys thus procured be placed in the contingent, or permanent fund, as the donors and subscribers may direct.

4. That the two-fold application to ministers and sessions, mentioned in the preceding resolutions, be accompanied with a letter, which has been prepared on the subject; and it is earnestly recommended that this letter be read from the pulpits in the several congregations under the care of the Assembly."

The letter was read by paragraphs, and being amended was adopted.

*Resolved*, That three thousand copies of it be printed, and that the committee superintend the printing; and that the agent for forwarding the printed extracts forward by mail a copy of this letter to each minister belonging to the Assembly, and that he forward the remaining copies with the printed extracts.

The committee, to which was referred an inquiry proposed to the Assembly by the Presbytery of Philadelphia relative to the notes found in the book containing the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, reported; and their report being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That the book referred to was first published with nothing but the simple text, without any Scripture proofs, or any notes of any description whatsoever. This is evident not only from the minutes of the General Assembly, but from the numerous copies of this first edition of the Standards of our

Church which are now in existence. It is also equally evident from examining the records of the General Assembly, that not a single note in the book has been added to, or made a part of the Constitution of the Church, since it was first formed and published, in the manner above recited. Several alterations and additions have been made by referring them, when contemplated, to the Presbyteries for their decision thereon, in the manner pointed out in the constitution itself. But among all the points thus referred, there is not found a single note which now appears in the book containing the Constitution of our Church. Hence it follows, beyond a doubt, that these notes are no part of that constitution. If, then, it be inquired how these notes obtained the place which they now occupy, and what is the character, as to authority, which they possess, the answer is this: when a second edition of the Standards of our Church was needed, it was thought by the General Assembly, that it would be of great use in itself, highly agreeable to the members of our church generally, as well as conformable to the example of the church of Scotland, from which we derive our origin, if the Scripture proofs were added, in support of the several parts and clauses of the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Form of Government. A committee was accordingly appointed by the Assembly to select the Scripture proofs, and to prepare them for being printed in the second edition of the book. The work of this committee was, the following year, referred to another, and ultimately the committee charged with preparing the Scripture proofs, reported, along with these proofs, the notes which now appear in the book, and which were approved by the General Assembly, and directed to be printed with the proofs, in the form in which they now appear. These notes, then, are explanations of some of the principles of the Presbyterian Church, given by the General Assembly, and which, of course, the General Assembly may modify or altogether exclude, at their pleasure, whereas the articles of the constitution must govern the Assembly themselves, and cannot be altered or abrogated, but in the manner pointed out in the constitution itself.

On the whole, in the book containing the Standards of our Church, the text alone contains the Constitution of our Church; the notes are an exposition of principles given by the highest judicature of that church, of the same force, while they continue, with the other acts of that judicature, but subject to alterations, amendments, or a total erasure, as they shall judge proper.

*Resolved*, That as it belongs to the General Assembly to give direction in regard to the notes which accompany the Constitution of which they are the supreme judicatory, this Assembly express it as their opinion, that in printing future editions of the Constitution of this Church, the parenthesis on the note, on this part of the Form of Government which defines a Synod, and which is expressed in these words, 'since a Synod is only a larger Presbytery,' be omitted, as well as the note connected with the Scripture proofs in answer to the question in the Larger Catechism, What is forbidden in the eighth commandment? in which the nature of the crime of man-stealing and slavery is dilated upon. In regard to this last omission, the Assembly think proper to declare, that in directing it they are influenced by far other motives than any desire to favour slavery, or to retard the extinction of that mournful evil, as speedily as may consist with the happiness of all concerned.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing resolution with the report of the committee, sanctioned by the Assembly on the same subject, be printed and connected with the last edition of the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, Form of Government, &c., of this Church.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina, reported, and the book was approved to the close of the proceedings of the session of July, 1815.

The consideration of the resolutions laid on the table on Saturday was indefinitely postponed.

*Resolved*, That the agents appointed to solicit contributions to the Theological Seminary be, and they are hereby required to make a return of their agencies according to the following form :

| Districts. | Subscribed. | Collected. | Total. | | Expenses. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Subscribed & | Collected. | |
| | | | | | |

Signed, A . . . . . B . . . . . . .

*Resolved*, That it be renewedly enjoined on all the Synods and Presbyteries in connection with this Assembly, to take special care that their annual reports to the Assembly be made out according to the forms prescribed in the printed extracts.

The committee appointed to devise and report a plan for the more extensive circulation of the printed extracts of the minutes of the Assembly, reported ; and their report being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

*Resolved*, 1. That the number of copies annually printed be two thousand.

2. That a distribution of them be made amongst the several Presbyteries, according to the number of congregations reported by each.

*Resolved*, That it be, and it is hereby recommended to the Presbyteries to forward instructions to the next General Assembly, relative to the mode of conveying to them their several quotas of the extracts from the minutes; and that for the present year, one copy be sent to each minister by mail, as far as the agent can find out their address.

The following persons were appointed agents for the ensuing year to solicit contributions to the Theological Seminary, within the districts hereafter specified, viz :

Rev. Seth Smith, in the Presbytery of Cayuga. Rev. Jabez Chadwick, Onondaga. Rev. Ebenezer Fitch, D. D., Geneva. Rev. Henry Dwight, Rev. William Neill, D. D., Oneida. Rev. William Neill, D. D., Albany. Rev. Samuel Tomb, Columbia. Samuel Bayard, Esq., Londonderry. Rev. Jonathan Freeman, and Rev. John Johnston, Hudson. Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., and Rev. Robert Finley, New York. Rev. Asa Hillyer, and Rev. James Richards, D. D., Long Island. Rev. David Comfort, and Rev. William McDowell, New Brunswick. Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., Rev. Robert Finley, and Rev. George S. Woodhull, Jersey. Rev. William Latta, Philadelphia. Rev. James Patterson, Carlisle. Rev. John E. Latta, New Castle. Rev. Thomas C. Searle, Baltimore. Rev. James Linn, Huntingdon. Rev. William Johnston, Ohio. Rev. John B. Patterson, Northumberland. Rev. Elisha McCurdy, Redstone. Rev. William Woods, Erie. Rev. Thomas E. Hughes, Hartford. Rev. John Wright, Lancaster. Rev. Thomas Barr, D. D., Grand River. Rev. William Dickey, Muhlenburg. Rev. Gideon Blackburn, West Tennessee. Rev. Moses Waddell, D. D., and Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D., South Carolina. Rev. James Blythe, D. D., and Rev. William Martin, West Lexington. Rev. James Hoge, and Rev. William Williamson, Washington. Rev. John M. Campbell, Union. Rev. William Paisley, Orange. Rev. James Hall, D. D., Concord. Rev. Colin McIver, Fayetteville. Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley, and Rev. Thomas Cleland, Transylvania. Rev. John Couser, and Rev. James R. Thompson, D. D., Harmony. Rev. Francis Cummings, Hopewell. Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, and Rev. Matthew G. Wallace, Miami.

The Rev. John McDowell was appointed an agent in North and South Carolina, and in Georgia.

The committee appointed to consider whether the missionary business cannot be carried on with more efficacy, and to greater extent, reported, and their report being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

" The committee rejoice in prospect of a competent supply of the word of God to the poor and destitute in our country, by means of Bible Societies. The numbers and resources of these institutions are every day increasing, so that, at no very remote period, it is hoped that the sun of revelation will shine on every dark corner of our land, and irradiate every dwelling however obscure. The committee, however, instead of regarding this as a reason for relaxing missionary efforts, are persuaded that its proper effect is to infuse new life and vigour into the missionary cause. In proportion as the word of God is known and appreciated, will the preachers of the word, in its simplicity and purity, be effectual : in proportion as the Bible is diffused, will missionaries be successful in organizing churches.

That there is a wide extent of country destitute of the ordinary means of grace, is too well known to be mentioned in this place. The present demand for missionary labours very far exceeds the ability of supply, and the population of the country is increasing with such rapidity, that, were every place now vacant completely supplied with the regular ministrations of the gospel, after the lapse of a year, there would probably be in the nation four hundred thousand souls requiring the labours of a competent number of religious instructors. When, then, there are such multitudes at this moment who rarely, if ever, hear the gospel preached, and such mighty additions are made every year to our numbers ; when, too, great multitudes, sensible of their wants, are addressing their importunate cries to us for missionaries, the cry for help of souls ready to perish, it appears to your committee, that God and our brethren require of us much more than we have heretofore rendered. We are longing and praying for the coming of the day of glory, and perhaps many of us hope to see it. But we have no right to calculate on miraculous interpositions, and without a miracle, century after century must elapse before the earth can be filled with the knowledge of God. All that the Christian world is now doing with united effort, if continued without intermission for one thousand years, would barely serve to fill the world with Bibles and missionaries. Yet we are not to despair. God, in his adorable providence, seems to have changed, in these latter times, the scale on which he had for ages conducted the affairs of his government. Changes which formerly were the work of years, are now produced in a day. Magnificent and astonishing events have passed so often before the eyes of men of the present age, that their minds have acquired a tone and vigour which prompt them to undertake and accomplish great things. We ourselves witness every day the wonderful effects of combined counsel and exertions, both in the moral and political world.

From the lessons taught us by experience, your committee have no doubt but that in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, there needs only union of purpose and effort to accomplish all the plans which have been proposed, and even to go far beyond the expectations and hopes of the most sanguine ; and this especially, as so powerful an impulse has been given to the Christian community, and the impression is so deep and universal, that it becomes us all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, to exert ourselves for the promotion of his glory and the extension of his kingdom.

For the purpose of enlarging the sphere of our missionary operations then, and infusing new vigour into the cause, your committee would respectfully recommend a change of the style, and enlargement of the powers of the Standing Committee of Missions. If, instead of continuing to this body the character of a committee bound in all cases to act according to the instructions of the General Assembly, and under the necessity of receiving its sanction to give validity to all the measures which it may propose, the Committee of Missions were erected into a Board, with full powers to transact all the business of the missionary cause, only requiring the Board to report annually to the General Assembly, it would then be able to carry on the missionary business with all the vigour and unity of design that would be found in a society originated for that purpose, and at the same time would enjoy all the benefit that the counsel and advice of the General Assembly could afford.

With these views of the subject, it is respectfully recommended,

1. That the style of the committee be changed for that of the "Board of Missions, acting under the authority of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States."

2. That the Board of Missions be enlarged by the addition of the Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., Samuel Miller, D. D., and Messrs. Samuel Bayard, Robert Ralston, Robert Lenox, John R. B. Rodgers, John E. Caldwell, Divie Bethune, and Zechariah Lewis.

3. That in addition to the powers already granted to the Committee of Missions, the Board of Missions be authorized to appoint missionaries whenever they may deem it proper; to make such advances to missionaries as may be judged necessary, and to pay balances due to missionaries who have fulfilled their missions, whenever in their judgment the particular circumstances of the missionaries may require it.

4. That the Board be authorized and directed to take measures for establishing throughout our churches auxiliary missionary societies; and that the General Assembly recommend to their people the establishment of such societies, to aid the funds, and extend the operations of the Board.

5. That the members of the Board of Missions be annually chosen by the Assembly, and that they continue in office until the rising of the next General Assembly, when they are to be succeeded by the persons chosen for the current year.

The committee further report, that while deliberating on the subject referred to them, they at first thought it would be expedient for this Assembly to present to the consideration of their churches the importance of foreign missions, and to direct the Board to take measures for commencing and carrying on such missions; but, on mature reflection, they are inclined to believe, that the union of foreign with domestic missions, would produce too great complexity in the affairs of the Board, and render the pressure of business too severe and burdensome. And this consideration is strengthened by the belief which they indulge, that a new society for conducting foreign missions might be formed, composed not only of members belonging to our churches, but also of members belonging to the Reformed Dutch Church, to the Associate Reformed Church, and other churches which have adopted the same creed. Such a society is highly desirable, and were it organized on an extensive plan, so as to call forth the combined energies and charity of all these sister churches, it would be productive of beneficial consequences, both at home and abroad, to ourselves as well as to the heathen.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., Archibald Alexander, D. D., Edward Griffin, D. D., William Neill, D. D., and James Richards, D. D., and Messrs. Divie Bethune, and Zechariah Lewis, be a committee to correspond with the Dutch and Associate Reformed churches, and other churches holding the same creed; and endeavour to ascertain whether the members of those churches will unite with those of the Presbyterian Church in the United States in the formation of a society for foreign missions; and if possible, report to the next General Assembly a plan of a society to be established for this purpose.

*Resolved*, That a committee, consisting of one member from each Synod represented in this Assembly, be appointed to correspond with influential individuals in all the congressional districts of the United States, and engage their co-operation in preparing and circulating petitions from said districts to Congress, praying the repeal of the law permitting the transportation of the mail on the Lord's day.

The following persons were chosen a committee for the aforesaid purpose, viz: the Rev. James H. Hotchkin, the Rev. Drs. Neill, Hall, Blythe, and Thompson, and the Rev. Messrs. Robert Finley, John H. Rice, Robert Patterson, James Hoge, and Mr. Ralston.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Wilson and Janeway, and Mr. Joseph Montgomery, be added to this committee, and they were accordingly added.

The committee to which were referred the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, brought in their report, which being read, was adopted, and the Stated Clerk was directed to transcribe it in the Compendious View.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of twenty dollars to Joseph Jacobs for ten days' service rendered the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk, agreeably to the rate fixed by a former Assembly, and for stationery furnished by him for the use of the Assembly.

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain if any members had left the Assembly without leave, it appeared that none had left it without having obtained leave.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday in May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator, therefore, dissolved this Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed by the Constitution of the Church. Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1816.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Geneva, | 29 | 3 | 35 | 1307 | $ 86 |
| Cayuga, | 13 | — | 20 | 735 | 40 |
| Onondaga, | 18 | — | 19 | 1270 | 82 |
| Oneida, | 18 | — | 17 | 862 | 207 |
| Albany, | 12 | — | 15 | 1294 | 245 |
| Columbia, | 11 | 2 | 20 | 604 | 363 |
| Londonderry, | 16 | 6 | 12 | 843 | 90 |
| Champlain. No report. | | | | | |
| Long Island, | 13 | — | 16 | 597 | 160 |
| Hudson, | 21 | 2 | 31 | 2290 | 304 |
| New York, | 15 | 1 | 12 | 1707 | 1030 |
| Jersey, | 21 | 10 | 26 | 4416 | 427 |
| New Brunswick. No report. | | | | | |
| Philadelphia, | 29 | 1 | 31 | 2068 | 842 |
| New Castle, | 25 | | 49 | 2164 | 207 |
| Carlisle, | 19 | 3 | 32 | 2143 | 314 |
| Baltimore, | 13 | 1 | — | 579 | — |
| Huntingdon, | 8 | — | 26 | 1447 | 44 |
| Northumberland, | 6 | — | 15 | 441 | 18 |
| Redstone. No report. | | | | | |

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grand River, | 9 | — | 15 | 395 | 51 |
| Ohio, | 25 | 2 | 38 | 3157 | 251 |
| Hartford, | 9 | — | 21 | — | 61 |
| Erie, | 14 | — | 38 | 1055 | 38 |
| Washington, | 10 | — | 24 | 10[illegible]2 | 201 |
| Lancaster, | 14 | — | 40 | 684 | 64 |
| Miami, | 12 | — | 25 | 657 | 94 |
| West Lexington. No report. | | | | | |
| Transylvania, | 14 | — | 26 | 520 | 58 |
| Louisville. No report. | | | | | |
| Union. No report. | | | | | |
| Muhlenburg, | 9 | 1 | 15 | 324 | 34 |
| West Tennessee, | 7 | 1 | 20 | 527 | 248 |
| Hanover, | 15 | 3 | 25 | 603 | 100 |
| Lexington, | 13 | 2 | 27 | 220 | 125 |
| Winchester, | 11 | 2 | 1[illegible] | 588 | 305 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | | |
| Orange, | 8 | 3 | 19 | 534 | 265 |
| Concord, | 13 | 5 | 50 | 1255 | 40 |
| Fayetteville, | 10 | 1 | 29 | 1868 | 230 |
| South Carolina, | 9 | 6 | 26 | 248 | — |
| Hopewell, | 7 | 2 | 18 | 257 | — |
| Harmony, | 15 | 3 | 28 | 597 | 112 |
| Total | 511 | 60 | 881 | 37,208 | $6,746 |

# 1817.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 15*th*, 1817.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., the moderator of a former Assembly, the Moderator of the last Assembly being absent, with a sermon from Ephesians i. 21, 22: "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in that which is to come; and hath put all things under his feet, and gave them to be the head over all things to the church."

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA—The Rev. William Wisner.

PRESBYTERY OF ONONDAGA—The Rev. Caleb Alexander, and Rev. Elnathan Walker.

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. Henry Axtell, Rev. Moses Young, and Rev. Miles P. Squier. Messrs. John Fleming, John T. Chapman, John Perrine, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Henry Dwight, and Rev. Noah Coe.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., and Rev. Jonas Coe. Mr. Gurdon Corning, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Thomas Holiday, and Rev. John Chester.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDONDERRY—The Rev. Gardner B. Perry.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. John Clark, Rev. John Johnston, Rev. Andrew Thompson, and Rev. Ezra Fisk. Messrs. Joseph Clark, Leonard Smith, Robert Hart, and William Philips, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Gardiner Spring, and Rev. William Boardman. Messrs. Zechariah Lewis, Divie Bethune, and Rensselaer Havens, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Aaron Woolworth, D. D., and Rev. John D. Gardiner. Mr. Sylvester Deering, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF JERSEY—The Rev. Aaron Condict, Rev. John McDowell, and Rev. Samuel Fisher. Messrs. David Magie, John Linn, and Lewis Mills, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., Rev. George S. Woodhull, Rev. Isaac V. Brown, and Rev. Horace Galpin. Mr. Nathaniel Burrowes, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. William Neill, D. D., Rev. Ethan Osborne, Rev. Gorge C. Potts, Rev. Thomas H. Skinner, and Rev. George Chandler. Messrs. Willam Haslett, Reading Beattie, Charles Ogden, and John McMullin, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Samuel Martin, and Rev. Francis A. Latta. Messrs. John McKissick, and Amos Slaymaker, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. James Snodgrass, Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D., Rev. David McConnaughy, and Rev. Alexander Boyd. Mr. Walter Smith, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. Andrew Hunter, Rev. Samuel Knox, and Rev. Thomas C. Searle.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND—The Rev. Thomas Hood, and Rev. Robert F. N. Smith. Messrs. Robert McCoy, and Daniel Vincent, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. John Hutchinson, and Rev. William A. Boyd.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. Francis Herron. Mr. James Brady, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. Cyrus Riggs.

PRESBYTERY OF LANCASTER—The Rev. James Culbertson, and Rev. Thomas D. Baird.

PRESBYTERY OF GRAND RIVER—The Rev. William Handford,

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—The Rev. Thomas Hoge, and Rev. Thomas B. Clarke.

PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—The Rev. Wm. Hill, Rev. John B. Hoge.

PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—The Rev. John D. Paxton, and Rev. Moses Hoge, D. D.

PRESBYTERY OF WASHINGTON—The Rev. Robert R. Wilson.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—The Rev. John Witherspoon, and Rev. Robert H. Chapman, D. D. Messrs. James Smith, and James Philips, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF FAYETTEVILLE—The Rev. James Turner.

PRESBYTERY OF MIAMI—The Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, and Rev. James Kemper. Mr. Thomas Collard, elder.

The following delegates from the different Associations connected with this Assembly also attended, and having produced certificates of their appointments, took their seats as members.

Of the General Association of the State of Connecticut—Rev. Frederick W. Hotchkiss, Samuel P. Williams, and Ira Hart.

Of the General Association of Massachusetts proper—Rev. Ebenezer Porter, D. D.

Of New Hampshire—Rev. Ethan Smith.

Rev. Robert White, a commissioner from the Presbytery of New Castle, having neglected to bring with him his commission, but satisfactory testimony being given that he had been duly appointed, was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

The Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, and Temporary Clerk; and the Rev. Jonas Coe, D. D., was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D. Temporary Clerk.

The minutes of the last Assembly were read.

Rev. Messrs. Axtell, Chester, Condict, Martin, Herron, Robert G. Wilson, Hill, and Chapman, D. D., and Messrs. Havens, McKissick, Brady, Collard, Philips, and Dr. Corning, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning in this church, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

*Resolved*, That a free conversation on the state of religion be the order of the day for Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer, and other religious exercises; and Drs. Hoge, Neill, and Mr. Fisk, be a committee to make arrangements for the occasion, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Osborne, Snodgrass, and Slaymaker, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva.

That Messrs. McConnaughy, Graham, and Walter Smith, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

That Messrs. Alexander, Hutchinson, and Brady, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

That Dr. Miller, Messrs. Woodhull, and Burrowes, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

That Messrs. Knox, Boyd, and McMullin, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

That Messrs. Hill, Paxton, and Magie, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina.

That Messrs. Wisner, Skinner, and Ogden, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

That Messrs. Perry, Francis A. Latta, and Beattie, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia.

That Messrs. Dwight, Noah Coe, and Philips, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

That Messrs. Squier, Searle, and Perrine, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 16*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. John E. Latta resigned his seat to the Rev. John D. Perkins, the principal mentioned in the commission, and Mr. Perkins took his seat as a member.

The Rev. John V. Ewing, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Lexington, appeared in the Assembly. Having no regular commission, but satisfactory testimony being given that he had been duly appointed, he was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

Mr. Joseph Abbot, a ruling elder, from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read at the opening of the Assembly, took his seat as a member.

The Rev. James P. Wilson, D. D., a delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of Connecticut, reported that the Rev. Cyrus Gildersleeve attended with him, and that they were most kindly received.

The Rev. William A. McDowell, the delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Convention of Vermont and the General Association of New Hampshire, reported that he attended, and was cordially received; that the sessions of both bodies were highly interesting, that he laid before them the papers entrusted to him by the Assembly, agreeably to their direction; and that they took them into consideration and acted upon them.

The following question referred to the Assembly by the Synod of Ohio, viz: "Should those who withdraw from the communion of the church, and connect themselves with other denominations, without consulting the session of the church from which they have withdrawn, be subjected to discipline?" was brought in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and being read was committed to Dr. Neill, and Messrs. Alexander and Lewis.

Messrs. Condict, Bethune, and Lewis, were appointed a committee to ascertain the amount of the Commissioners' Fund, and to make distribution of it agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

The calling for Synodical and Presbyterial reports, and also the calling for the reports of the Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, were made orders of the day for the afternoon.

The following resolution of the last Assembly was rescinded, viz:

Whereas, the sittings of the General Association of Connecticut are usually at no great distance from some parts of the Presbyterian Church; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the rule on this article, so far as respects the General Association of Connecticut be repealed; and that the delegates to that body hereafter bear their own expenses, and it hereby is accordingly repealed.

The rule repealed by this resolution was restored.

Nominations were made for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, and the election was made the order of the day for the afternoon.

A letter from the Board of Trust of Ohio, addressed to the Assembly, was received and read, informing the Assembly that they had formed themselves into a missionary society, and requesting permission to retain in their hands all the moneys collected within their bounds for missionary purposes, since the last Assembly. A copy of the constitution accompanied the letter. Doctors Blatchford and Neill, and Messrs. Herron, Spring, and Bethune, were appointed a committee to take the letter, and to report to the Assembly on the subject of it.

The agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the funds of the Theological Seminary, were called upon to report what they had severally done pursuant to their appointment; and Messrs. Woodhull and Brown were appointed a committee to receive the reports after they shall have been read, and make a statement of the results of the agency, and report it to the Assembly.

The Presbyteries were called upon to state what they had severally done pursuant to the recommendation of the last Assembly, relative to the circulation of copies of the Confession of Faith; and it appeared that the following Presbyteries had attended to it, viz: Columbia, Onondaga, Geneva, Oneida, New York, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Baltimore, Northumberland, Huntingdon, Redstone, Lancaster, Grand River, Hanover, Washington, Orange, Fayetteville, and Lexington.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the other Presbyteries to attend to the recommendation, and that they report to the next Assembly the result of their attention.

The following extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Jersey was received and read, viz:

"*Resolved*, That our commissioners to the General Assembly be, and they are hereby instructed, to endeavour to procure from the Assembly permission for booksellers generally to publish the Confession of Faith, without requiring anything for the copy-right."

This extract was committed to Messrs. Fisk, Galpin, and Walker, who were directed to confer with the Trustees of the Assembly on the subject.

The consideration of Mr. Bourne's appeal from a decision of the Presbytery of Lexington, was made the order of the day for Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Boyd resigned his seat to the Rev. John McKnight, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. McKnight took his seat as a member.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. William Gray, a commissioner from the Presbytery of New York, the Rev. James Johnson, commissioner from the Presbytery of Champlain, the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., a commissioner from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Rev. David Porter, D. D., commissioner from the Presbytery of Columbia, and Mr. Nehemiah B. Basset, ruling elder and commissioner from the Presbytery of Albany, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, took their seats as members.

Mr. William Rhea, a ruling elder and commissioner from the Presbytery of Ohio, appeared in the Assembly, having no commission, but satisfactory testimony being given that he had been duly appointed, he was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

It being the order of the day for the afternoon, an election was held for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, when the following persons were duly chosen, viz: the Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, Samuel Fisher, and Thomas H. Skinner, to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut; the Rev. Samuel Fisher, and the Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, to attend the next meeting of that of Massachusetts proper, and Rev. Thomas H. Skinner was appointed alternate to either of these delegates who may fail to attend.

The Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., was chosen to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire, and also to attend the next meeting of the General Convention of Vermont, and the Rev. Samuel Prime was appointed his alternate.

*Resolved*, That the usual allowance for defraying their expenses be made to these delegates.

The Rev. Amzi Armstrong, and Cyrus Gildersleeve, were appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Fisher; Dr. Wilson, and Mr. Potts, were appointed to supply the pulpit of Mr. Skinner; and Dr. Coe was appointed to supply the pulpit of Dr. Blatchford—each one Sabbath during the absence of the respective delegates.

The committee to whom was referred the request of the Board of Trust of the Synod of Ohio, that in consequence of the Synod having formed themselves into a missionary society, they be permitted to retain in their hands all the moneys collected within their bounds for missionary purposes since the last Assembly, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the request be granted, and that the Synod be requested to make an annual report of their missionary business to the Board of Missions.

The Synodical and Presbyterial reports were called for, and Messrs. Baird, John B. Hoge, and McKissick, were appointed a committee to receive these reports, and examine them, and read to the Assembly those parts which they may think necessary to be read, and prepare a statement to be transcribed into the Compendious View.

The reports of Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, were called for, and Messrs. Johnson and Witherspoon were appointed a committee to prepare a statement exhibiting a general view of the reports, and the decisions of the Assembly upon them severally. After considerable progress made in this business, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 17th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. John McCue, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Lexington, appeared in the Assembly, having no regular commission, but satisfactory testimony being given that he had been duly appointed, he was received as a member, and took his seat accordingly.

The receiving of reports from the Presbyteries on the subject of the education of poor and pious youth, the business left unfinished yesterday afternoon, was resumed and finished.

The committee appointed to prepare a minute, stating the attention which the Presbyteries appeared to have paid to the resolutions of the Assembly, in relation to the selection of young men for the gospel ministry, and providing funds for their education, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That from the votes of the Assembly it appeared, that the Presbyteries of Onondaga, Geneva, Oneida, Cayuga, Columbia, Albany, Londonderry, Hudson, New York, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Baltimore, Carlisle, Northumberland, Huntington, Redstone, Erie, Lancaster, Grand River, Ohio, Winchester, Hanover, Washington, Orange, and Miami, have fully attended to the recommendations of the Assembly; that no reports have been received from the Presbyteries of Champlain, Lexington, West Lexington, Hopewell, Union, South Carolina, Transylvania, Abingdon, Harmony, Concord, Muhlenburgh, West Tennessee, and Louisville; that the reasons offered by the Presbytery of Fayetteville, for not attending to the recommendation of the Assembly were deemed satisfactory; and that there are at present thirty-nine young men of the description contemplated by the Assembly under the care of the several Presbyteries.

The following statement and request of Dr. Hall, were overtured, viz: that in May, 1815, he had received for the Commissioners' Fund, thirty-three dollars, of which he is well assured that he was robbed on his way to attend the meeting of the Assembly; that he paid this sum to the Treasurer, expecting to have it reimbursed in part, by his co-presbyters, he bearing his part; but this not having been done, he requested this Assembly to pass an order for the refunding of said sum, promising that he would immediately hand it to the Treasurer, in behalf of the Presbytery of Concord, as their quota to the Commissioners' Fund for the present year, trusting his co-presbyters for the payment of it.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the said sum, thirty-three dollars, to Dr. Hall.

Whereas, it appears that several of our Presbyteries have funds at their disposal for the education of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, and others are represented as ready to raise adequate sums for the same important object; and whereas, it is of great importance to the interests of the

Church of Christ that such funds should be applied to suitable objects, therefore,

*Resolved,* That Messrs. Knox, Hotchkiss, Hill, McDowell, and Drs. Hoge, and Miller, be a committee to devise a plan on this subject, and report to the Assembly as soon as convenient.

An appeal by the Presbytery of Hudson, from a decision of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, was overtured, and made the order of the day for next Tuesday morning.

An overture from the Presbytery of Louisville, requesting an alteration of the boundary line between the Synod of Ohio and the Synod of Kentucky, was brought in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and read, and after considerable discussion of the subject, the overture was committed to Messrs. Fisher, Boardman, and Dwight, to take it into consideration and report to the Assembly.

The following overture was brought in and read, viz:

*Resolved,* That the Assembly will hereafter publish a journal of their proceedings, instead of such extracts from their minutes as have usually been published.

And while the same was under consideration, the Board of Missions, agreeably to notice previously given, appeared in the Assembly, and the discussion was suspended.

The Board of Missions made their report, and the same was committed to Dr. David Porter and Mr. Searle, who were directed to report to the Assembly the several particulars contained in the report which require the attention of the Assembly.

Dr. James Hall, a member of the Presbytery of Concord, having at a former session stated to the Assembly that he had every reason to believe that he had been appointed a commissioner to this Assembly, and that he had expected a commission by mail, but it had not yet arrived; it was, on motion,

*Resolved,* That Dr. Hall be invited to take a seat as a representative from the Presbytery of Concord.

And he was accordingly invited, and took his seat.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, on Monday morning next. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 19*th*, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Aaron W. Leland, D. D., commissioner from the Presbytery of Harmony; Mr. Samuel Bayard, a ruling elder and commissioner from the Presbytery of New Brunswick; and Mr. Ezra Hawley, a ruling elder, and commissioner from the Presbytery of Columbia, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual account, as settled and approved by the Committee of the Trustees of the General Assembly, which was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

An extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Philadelphia was read, stating that the commissioners from the Presbytery were directed to lay a copy of a collection of Hymns, intended for the use of society meetings, which had been submitted to Presbytery for their inspection and approbation, before the Assembly for their inspection, and if they think proper, approbation; the Presbytery having declined to express their opinion of the book, considering it proper that it should be submitted to the Assembly.

This book was committed to Messrs. Francis A. Latta, Herron, and Chester, who were directed to inspect it and report thereon to the Assembly.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to receive communications on the subject of the state of religion; and Drs. Alexander, Ebenezer Porter, Messrs. Fisk, Hotchkiss, and Lewis, were appointed a committee to prepare a connected narrative of the information which may be received on the subject, and lay it before the Assembly. After considerable progress made in this business, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly, to dispose of interest due on moneys in the hands of the Trustees of Princeton College, reported; and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That they had met with a committee of said Trustees, and agreed to appropriate said interest, amounting to thirty-three dollars eighty-one cents, to the use of a student in college, having in view the gospel ministry.

The Rev. William C. Schenck, and Samuel B. How, were appointed a committee to dispose of the aforesaid interest for the current year.

Mr. McKnight resigned his seat to the Rev. Alexander Boyd; and Mr. White resigned his seat to the Rev. John E. Latta; Mr. Boyd and Mr. Latta, being present, took their seats as members.

The business left unfinished in the morning, viz: the receiving communications on the state of religion, was resumed and finished.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 20*th*, 1817, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. James Knox, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Huntingdon, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read at the opening of the Assembly, he took his seat as a member.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. John McDowell, for the missionary sermon which, by their appointment, he preached last evening.

A petition from the Synod of Kentucky was received and read, praying the division of the said Synod; and it was committed to the Rev. Robert G. Wilson, Joshua L. Wilson, and Robert T. N. Smith, to consider it, and report to the Assembly.

Mr. McMullin resigned his seat to Mr. John Connelly, the alternate mentioned in their commission.

The committee of arrangements for the exercises of Wednesday evening, reported, and their report being read, was accepted.

The committee appointed to select from the first report of the Board of Missions, the particulars which require the attention of the Assembly, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be directed to issue warrants for the payment of the following sums, viz:

To the Rev. William McMillan, $3.43. Rev. Wells Anderson, 67.00. Rev. Thomas E. Hughes, 27.60. Rev. John Lyle, 39.71½. Rev. John Davenport, 26.28. Rev. James W. Gready, 69.00. Rev. S. T. Scott, 40.00. Rev. Daniel Gray, 40.07. Rev. William Hodge, 29.28. Rev. William Wylie, 21.00. Rev. Samuel Doake, 7.62½. Rev. Colin McIver, 72.50. Rev. Dr. James Hall, 31.12. Rev. Robert Semple, 23.24. Rev. James Kemper, 59.75. Mr. E. W. Gilbert, 23.82. Mr. Backus Willbur, 67.43.

Mr. Ashbel G. Fairchild, 92.55. Mr. George W. Gale, 31.75. Rev. William Woods, 46.65. Rev. Andrew Rawson, 40.00. Rev. S. Hughes, 105.00. Rev. Moses Allen, 14.62.

2. *Resolved*, That the Assembly approve and fervently recommend to the several Presbyteries under their care, the address and plan of the Board of Missions. They trust the churches at large will immediately and vigorously enter into measures, so vitally important to the interests of religion, as those recommended by the Board.

3. *Resolved*, That the members of the Assembly be instructed to procure, and in the most effectual way communicate to the several congregations of the Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly, the above address and plan; and that the great business of domestic missions be as much as possible recommended to the whole communion of the Presbyterian church.

4. *Resolved*, That the Presbyteries and missionary societies which may be formed, be directed to take measures for raising funds, so as not to interfere with the annual collections in the churches in aid of the missionary funds of the Assembly.

5. *Resolved*, That the Board be authorized always to insert their missionary appointments in the appendix to the printed extracts.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the Assembly proceeded to consider the appeal of the Presbytery of Hudson from a decision of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reversing a decision of said Presbytery, by which the Presbytery determined not to give leave to the congregation of Goodwill to prosecute, before the Presbytery of New York, a call which they had prepared for the Rev. William Gray, a member of that Presbytery.

After considerable progress made in this business, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Gershom Williams, commissioner from the Presbytery of Jersey, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read at a former session, he took his seat as a member.

The order of the day for this afternoon, the hearing of Mr. Bourne's appeal, was postponed, to proceed with the business left unfinished in the morning.

The unfinished business was therefore resumed, and after the parties had been heard at full length, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Brown resigned his seat to the Rev. Leveret J. F. Huntington, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Huntington being present, took his seat as a member.

The committee to whom was referred the petition of the Synod of Kentucky, praying a division of said Synod, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That agreeably to the request of the Synod of Kentucky, the Presbyteries of Union, Shiloh, West Tennessee, and Mississippi, be constituted a Synod, to be known and called by the name of the Synod of Tennessee; that they hold their first session at Nashville, on the first Wednesday of October next; and that the Rev. James W. Stevenson, or in case of his absence, the senior minister who may be present, open the Synod with a sermon, and preside until a new Moderator be chosen.

The Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary reported, and their report being read, was committed to Dr. Chapman, Messrs. John Johnson, Dwight, Joshua L. Wilson, and Linn, to report to the Assembly the particular parts of the report, which require the attention of the Assembly.

The business left unfinished yesterday was resumed, viz: the consideration of the appeal of the Presbytery of Hudson from a decision of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reversing a decision of said Presbytery, by which the Presbytery determined not to give leave to the congregation of Goodwill to prosecute before the Presbytery of New York a call which they had prepared for the Rev. William Gray, a member of that Presbytery.

It was moved and seconded that the appeal of the Presbytery of Hudson be sustained. After a full discussion of the subject, the question being taken on this motion, it was determined in the affirmative, and the appeal was therefore sustained.

Mr. Wisner obtained leave of absence from the Assembly during the remaining part of this day; and Mr. Linn, during the remaining sessions of this Assembly after this day.

Mr. Burrowes resigned his seat to Mr. Benjamin Hayden, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Hayden took his seat as a member.

Mr. George Bourne's appeal from a decision of the Presbytery of Lexington was taken up; by which decision the Presbytery had deposed him from the exercise of the functions of the gospel ministry; and after some progress made in hearing the documents on the subject of this appeal, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Hugh Gemmill, ruling elder and commissioner from the Presbytery of New Castle, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, took his seat as a member.

Mr. Slaymaker resigned his seat to Mr. Samuel Cochran, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Cochran took his seat as a member.

The unfinished business of the morning was resumed, and after some progress made in hearing the appellant, it was suspended to hear the report of the committee appointed to prepare a connected narrative of the information received on the state of religion.

This report was read, and being in part amended, was returned to the committee, to be read as a part of the religious exercises to be performed this evening; and the committee were directed, after they had made the alterations and additions suggested, to submit it again to the Assembly.

The Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May* 22*d*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The religious exercises appointed for last evening were attended to, and the audience was crowded, solemn, and attentive.

The committee appointed to devise a plan for the disposal of the funds in the hands of the several Presbyteries for the education of poor and pious youth, who have no objects upon whom to bestow their funds, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved,* That it be recommended to the Presbyteries who have funds for the education of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, or who are able to raise funds for this object, but can find no suitable young men within their own bounds, to take measures to obtain them from the bounds of other Presbyteries, and educate them for the work of the ministry; or that they annually transmit money raised for this object to the General Assembly, that the Assembly may appropriate it to the object for which it was raised, or that they may transmit it to one of the theological seminaries within our bounds, to be applied by the Professors to the education of indigent young men in said seminaries; and that the Stated Clerk of the Assembly be the organ of communication between such Presbyteries as may have money to be applied to the above purpose, and those Presbyteries who may have under their care young men who shall need their liberality.

Mr. Knox obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly after this morning; and Mr. Graham after this day.

The hearing of the reports of committees appointed to examine the records of the several Synods was made the order of the day for Saturday next.

The committee to whom was referred the petition of the Presbytery of Louisville, requesting an alteration in the division line between the Synod of Ohio and the Synod of Kentucky, reported; and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petition be granted; and that, agreeably to the petition, so much of the Synod of Ohio, within the state of Indiana, as lies west of a line drawn due north from the mouth of Kentucky river, be attached to the Synod of Kentucky.

The committee appointed to prepare a connected narrative of the information received on the state of religion, brought in their report, and after several observations were made upon it, it was committed again to the same committee, with the addition of Dr. Blatchford and Mr. Ethan Smith, to be further amended; and to be again submitted to the Assembly.

The consideration of Mr. Bourne's appeal, which had been suspended yesterday afternoon, was resumed, and the parties were heard at full length.

A motion was made and seconded to affirm the decision of Presbytery. After some discussion of this motion, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Galpin resigned his seat to the Rev. Jacob Kirkpatrick, the alternate nentioned in their commission, and Mr. Kirkpatrick was received as a member.

Mr. Vincent obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The discussion of the motion, made and seconded in the morning, was resumed; and after some further discussion was postponed, and the following motion was intoduced, viz:

While the Assembly do not mean to express an opinion on the conduct of Mr. Bourne, yet they judge that the charges were not fully substantiated, and if they had been, the sentence was too severe; Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the sentence of deposition be reversed.

After considerable discussion of this motion, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

An overture for writing a pastoral letter to the churches was brought in, and being read was committed to Dr. Hoge, and Messrs. Herron and Spring, to prepare and report to the Assembly the draught of a pastoral letter.

The committee to whom was referred the second report of the Board of Missions brought in their report, which being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Trustees be instructed to issue warrants for the payment of the following sums, viz:

To the Rev. James Johnson, $27.70. Rev. William Bull, 78.25. Rev. Matthew Hanison, 71.95. Rev. Thomas Cleland, 31.50. Rev. Joseph B. Lapsley, 40.00. Rev. Samuel Kelton, 20.00. Total, $269.40. The Rev. Ashbel Parmelee has received $6.65, more than his services amounted to. Leaving a total of $262.75.

The discussion left unfinished yesterday afternoon was resumed, viz: of the motion to reverse a decision of the Presbytery of Lexington, by which decision Mr. George Bourne was deposed from the gospel ministry. This motion, after it had been amended and fully discussed, was determined in the affirmative, and is as follows, viz:

"The Assembly judge that the charges, in the case of Mr. Bourne, were not fully substantiated, and that, if they had been, the sentence was too severe. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the sentence of the Presbytery of Lexington, deposing Mr. Bourne, be reversed, and it hereby is reversed, and that the Presbytery commence the trial anew."

Mr. Gemmill obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Mr. Woodhull resigned his seat to the Rev. John F. Clark, the alternate named in their commission, and Mr. Clark was received as a member.

The committee appointed to inspect a book of hymns, submitted by the Presbytery of Philadelphia to the Assembly for their consideration, reported, and their report was read. After some discussion of this report, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The business left unfinished in the morning was resumed, and the report was put on the docket.

The committee to whom were referred the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, brought in their report, which being read, was adopted, and the Stated Clerk was directed to transcribe it into the Compendious View.

Mr. Osborne obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The overture for publishing a journal of the proceedings of the Assembly, was again called up, and determined in the negative.

The committee appointed to make a statement of the moneys collected by the several agents during the past year, for the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That since the last Assembly the following sums have been collected, as hereafter specified:

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, from the congregation of Cape May, $116.13. Rev. John E. Latta, on former subscriptions, New Castle Presbytery, 39.00.

Do. on new subscriptions, 81.00. Rev. Dr. Neill, new subscription in the city of Albany, 14.00. Rev. Mr. Searle, in the bounds of Baltimore Presbytery, nearly, 300.00. Rev. Mr. Dunham, in the Presbytery of Northumberland, 346.00. Of this sum, $10.00 to be appropriated for the education of poor and pious youth, the remainder to be applied to the permanent fund. In the bounds of this Presbytery an individual, Gen. Daniel Montgomery, has subscribed $100.00, to be paid in five annual instalments, to be applied to the permanent fund. Rev. Colin McIver, in the bounds of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, 106.65. Rev. Daniel Miller, on old subscriptions in the Presbytery of Jersey, 59.50. Rev. Mr. Couser, in the Presbytery of Harmony, 609.00. Rev. Mr. McDowell, old subscriptions, 15.00. Rev. Mr. Wallace, on old subscriptions, 5.00. Rev. Mr. McCampbell, in the Presbytery of Union, 21.15. Samuel Bayard, Esq., collected in New England, 325.54. Expenses to be deducted—Deduct for Mr. Freeman's expenses, 7.87. Do. Mr. Dunham's, 50.00. Do. Mr. Comfort's, 55.00. From the congregation of Redstone, by Mr. Galbraith, 17.50. On former subscriptions of Mr. McDowell, in Philadelphia, 75.00. Rev. Francis Cummins, 122. Total, $2139.90.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly, viz: Drs. Romeyn, Alexander, and Miller, to revise the Forms of Process in the Book of Discipline, and to report to this Assembly any alterations and additions which they may think ought to be made, reported, and their report being read, was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

That they have made considerable progress in accomplishing the duty assigned them; but as they desire to render the work as perfect as practicable, they respectfully solicit additional time, and request that the Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D., be added to the committee. Dr. Nott was accordingly added.

The Stated Clerk of the Assembly, the Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, D. D., resigned his office; and his resignation was accepted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Assembly be presented to Dr. Janeway for his diligence and fidelity in the performance of his duty, and that agreeably to his request the perusal of the manuscript minutes of the Assembly be allowed him when he wishes it, and it be convenient for his successor to spare them.

The Rev. William Neill, D. D., was chosen Stated Clerk, and was authorized to engage a person to print the extracts which are to be made from the minutes for printing; and also to appoint an agent to forward the extracts to the several Presbyteries.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, Rev. Dr. Janeway, and Messrs. Potts, and Skinner; were appointed a committee to select the extracts from the minutes of this Assembly proper to be printed.

The Board of Trustees, to whom had been referred by the last Assembly the expediency of stereotyping the Confession of Faith, and Book of Discipline, reported, that in their opinion it would be inexpedient, and their report was approved.

*Resolved*, That an election for Trustees of the Assembly be held, and that it be the order of the day for Monday next.

An overture for the appointment of a general missionary society, was laid before the Assembly and read. The consideration of this overture was postponed till Monday.

The committee to whom was referred the resolution from the Presbytery of Jersey, instructing their commissioners to endeavour to procure from this Assembly permission for the booksellers generally to publish the Confession of Faith, without requiring any thing for the copy-right, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That it would be inexpedient for the Assembly at present to relinquish the copy right of the Confession of Faith, inasmuch as the contract made by the Trustees of the Assembly with a bookseller was definite, and extends to the disposal of the whole edition, and of the present edition two thousand copies remain unsold.

Drs. Porter and Leland, and Mr. Thompson, were appointed a committee to devise ways and means to increase the funds for missionary purposes.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Beatty obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly, and Dr. Hall after this day.

*Resolved,* That Dr. Janeway be authorized to procure the binding of the second and third volumes of the extracts of the minutes of the General Assembly in sufficient quantity for the use of Synods and Presbyteries under their care.

The narrative of the state of religion was again read, and being amended was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"Every thing which relates to the Redeemer's Kingdom is important to the world, and of peculiar interest to the people of God. The General Assembly, therefore, feel a pleasure in presenting to the churches under their care, a summary of the state of religion within their bounds during the past year.

In entering on this duty, they cannot conceal their grief, that in many parts of our widely extended country, there are many vices still prevalent; such as profaneness, intemperance, Sabbath-breaking, and gambling: vices these, which always will be, whilst they continue, a cause of just complaint, and of deep regret. In many instances, however, a check has been given to these degrading and sinful practices, by the salutary operations of moral societies. Societies of this character, if instituted on proper principles and conducted with suitable prudence, promise to be very useful in laying, at least, an outward restraint upon the disturbers of the peace and order of society.

In some instances, too, we learn with feelings of the greatest concern, that the walk and conversation even of professors are not such as become the gospel of Christ. They are cold and formal in their demeanour, and in their conduct conform to the vain customs of the world. Alas! they seem to have forgotten the solemnity of that transaction, when they laid their vows before the altar of God, and avouched the Lord Jehovah to be their God. The General Assembly feel it to be their duty tenderly, but faithfully, to warn such of the danger of their condition, and the pernicious influence of their example; and earnestly to exhort them to strengthen the things that remain, which are ready to die.

Fidelity to the churches requires that these subjects of grief should be presented to their view: yet it is not to be understood that the evils complained of are more prevalent than heretofore. There is, indeed abundant reason to believe they are not. The general aspect of the Church of God has never been more favourable within our knowledge, than at the present time. The age in which we live is to be characterized as the age of Christian charity. Numerous associations are formed, which have for their object, the alleviation of human misery; associations, by the efforts of which, the widow's heart is made glad, the orphan's tears are wiped away, and poverty is relieved in its cottage of sorrow. Nor has benevolence limited her exertions to the temporal necessities of mankind. A higher object has claimed her attention, and received it. The spiritual interests of the poor and the ignorant have been considered, with a solicitude and promptness, unparalleled in the history of the world.

In very many of our cities and populous villages, Sabbath-schools have been instituted for children and adults, in which thousands are taught to read the word of God, and are instructed in the principles of religion. They are led also to the sanctuary of the Lord by their teachers, and thus enjoy the benefit of the gospel, which otherwise perhaps multitudes of them had never heard. Connected therewith, we would also note the instruction of the young and ignorant by catechizing, and the institution of Bible-classes in most of our congregations, for these form a striking feature of the day. God has blessed these efforts, and Zion has multiplied her children.

Religious tract societies are increasing, both in number and exertions, to the manifest advantage of truth and piety.

Missionary societies also claim from the General Assembly a distinguished notice. Aided by those consecrated treasures which have been placed at the disposal of these associations, the gospel has been faithfully and successfully preached through a wide extent of country. It is with emotions of joy which cannot be expressed, that we have heard of the zeal, the patience, and intrepidity of those heralds of the cross, who, in the true spirit of their missionary character, have penetrated far into the wilderness, and have proclaimed salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, where the gospel before had been scarcely ever heard. Never, never before have such narratives been presented to the Assembly, so interesting in their details, so cheering in their aspect.

In more places than one, the Spirit of the Lord has shed down his holy influences on their labours, so that many precious souls through their instrumentality, it is humbly hoped, have passed from death unto life, and are enrolled amongst the friends of Jesus. It is a pleasure, too, of no ordinary kind, to be able to state, that the missionary spirit is increasing both among preachers and people; and many young men entering the ministry are not intimidated by the exertions and privations of a missionary life. They are ready to spend, and be spent, in the blessed cause, which contains in itself a character of infinite importance:

> "Enough to fill an angel's hands,
> It filled a Saviour's heart."

In the establishment of Bible societies, there has been the most extensive combination. Within the hallowed circle of their operation, all denominations of Christians have met. And the past year will be remembered by future generations, for an expression of attachment to the sacred volume by the increase of these societies, before unknown. And here it ought not to be concealed, that the establishment of the American Bible Society has been a principal means of giving the impulse to public sentiment. There is a grandeur in its character, which commands respect, and an influence in its extension which must be felt.

Among the patrons of these charities which we have recorded, and who merit the gratitude of the church, the General Assembly recognize the unceasing efforts and liberality of pious females. Their benevolence has flowed in various channels, and their zeal will be long held as a precious memorial of their virtue and their piety. The Cent Societies are peculiarly their own, by which sixteen young men have been supported the last year in whole or in part, at the Assembly's Seminary, at Princeton. Go on, sisters in Zion, and ye mothers in Israel, until the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

The monthly concert for special prayer has been almost universally attended, and herein a union of sentiment and desire has been expressed by our churches, which affords the brightest prospects to the Redeemer's kingdom. Indeed, Zion has been evidently extending the curtains of her habitation. She has lengthened her cords and strengthened her stakes. The number of her branches has been increased, and her members been multiplied. Until now we have never known such bright displays of sovereign grace, nor marked so distinctly the triumphs of the cross of Christ. God has, indeed, been seen, in the operation of his Spirit, to have dwelt with man upon the earth. It is the Lord's doings, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

From the particular accounts which the Assembly have received from the Presbyteries under their care, they feel a high satisfaction in learning the measure of ministerial faithfulness with which the pastors of the churches have generally discharged the arduous duties of their station. The labours of many of them have been particularly blessed by the great Head of the Church, who, when he ascended up on high, received gifts for men. Some have been honourably employed in building up the saints in the faith and order of the gospel, whilst others have been permitted to witness among their people the powerful influences of converting grace, and have seen sinners flocking to Jesus like clouds, and like doves to their windows. This will be abundantly evident by recording some of the wonders which God has wrought. And here the Assembly would particularly mention the Presbyteries of Northumberland, Champlain, Grand River, Cayuga, Onondaga, Geneva, Columbia, and Jersey, as most distinguished by the glorious manifestations of divine mercy, to some of the congregations within their bounds. In Northumberland Presbytery, the congregation of Shamokin has been graciously visited with an outpouring of the Divine Spirit. And, though this be a day of small things, much good has already resulted from this merciful visitation, and we cannot but hail it as the token of a brighter scene.

In the Presbytery of Champlain there have been several revivals of religion, which have gladdened the hearts of ministers and Christians, dispersed through that region. More than an hundred souls, in the course of eight months, have been made the hopeful subjects of divine grace in the congregation of Malone. In Chatteaugy, Constable, Bangor, Moira, Dickinson, Plattsburgh, Chazee, and Lewis, the power of that Holy Spirit has been felt, by which we are convinced of sin, and converted unto God.

Grand River Presbytery is among those favoured portions of our Church which the Lord has blessed indeed. Ithaca, Lisle, Sempronius, Scipio, and Danby, have richly partaken in divine influence; but especially have we to mention the congregation of Locke, as particularly distinguished for those trophies of grace which the Lord has gathered to the honour of his glorious name.

In the Presbytery of Onondaga, the congregations of Homer, Fabius, Cazenovia, and Otisca, are to be numbered among the places which it has delighted the Lord to bless. Here a rich harvest of souls hath been gathered, and the Spirit of God has descended like dew on the new mown grass.

Geneva Presbytery also has been remembered with times of refreshing from the Lord's presence. The effusions of divine grace have been copious and extensive, and the heavenly influence has been peculiarly shed upon the congregations of Bloomfield, Lyons, Romulus, Middlesex, Gorham, and Palmyra. Hundreds of the wretched sinners of our race have here been brought to cry out, 'What must we do to be saved?' and here have found that Saviour whose blood cleanseth from all sin, Simular influences, though of a less extent, have been experienced in the congregations of Geneva, Rochester, Buffalo, Walcott, Victor, Livonia, and Hamburg. The results of these revivals, it is impossible for us to estimate. They doubtless will be better learned around the throne of God and the Lamb, from the songs of the redeemed.

The Presbytery of Columbia record, in their reports, illustrious mercy and wondrous grace. The Lord has visited several destitute places within the bounds of this Presbytery, with his comforting and reviving influences. The congregations of Catskill and Cambridge have been manifestly blessed of God. But in the city of Troy, the glory and the grace of God has been displayed with peculiar splendour and holy triumph. About five hundred of the several denominations are said to have professed the name of Jesus; some of all ages and conditions, from the child of ten to the old man of eighty years, have been made the subjects of divine mercy. What heart does not exult in such a work of the Lord, and take part with those blessed intelligences at the throne of God, who desire to look into the mysteries of grace, and rejoice when sinners repent!

The Presbytery of Jersey speak of wonders of mercy; and scenes of divine and sovereign grace are exhibited in some of their congregations, overwhelming by the grandeur of the work, and the extent of the operation. Two congregations in Newark, and the congregations of Elizabethtown and Orange, have felt in very deed that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, unto all who believe. The congregations also of Connecticut Farms and Bloomfield, have received a copious effusion of the Spirit of God. Multitudes in this region have embraced the Lord Jesus in hope of eternal life. The attention of the people of colour, also, is said here to be excited to the great things of their peace. This Presbytery reckon more than fifteen hundred persons as either being deeply impressed with the importance of religion, or else triumphing in the joys of faith, in the societies here recorded.

The Theological Seminary at Princeton is kindly remembered of God, and its influence is most happy. The missionary spirit which is manifestly increasing in this institution, is a subject of pleasing congratulation to all the friends of the Redeemer's kingdom. The number of students in this Seminary is forty-seven.

The Theological Seminary under the care of the Synod of Virginia, is also represented in a prosperous state.

The Assembly farther notice with pleasure, the general attention and exertion to alleviate the condition of the people of colour, in almost all parts of the country. A society, for the colonization of free people of this description, is formed, and is patronized by the first characters of our nation. An institution likewise is established under the direction of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, for the education of men of colour for the ministry, and as instructors of their brethren.

From the General Association of Connecticut we learn with interest, that some revivals of religion have taken place, and the cause of Jesus is advancing. Many happy fruits of past revivals are now enjoyed, and great things are still doing for Zion in that section of our country. Bible, tract, and missionary societies, are numerous, and useful in their influence, especially a society for the education of young men for the gospel ministry, which promises much good. We rejoice to learn that, in this State, there is also a seminary established for the education of heathen youth in our own country, at which there are twelve of that description from different countries; and also an institution which has for its object the education of the deaf and dumb. This establishment is in successful operation, and is supported by the general liberality of the country.

In Massachusetts proper, there have been some revivals of interesting character and extent. The blessed fruits resulting from the showers of grace which were mentioned in our narrative for the last year, will be held in everlasting remembrance by the people of God. The various societies which have been established in this State to promote Christian morals, and to extend the kingdom of the Redeemer, have continued their efforts with undiminished zeal and success. To individuals, whom God hath distinguished by the possession of wealth, he has given the disposition to become distinguished benefactors of the Church. The Theological Seminary at Andover is flourishing. It has sixty-seven students, many of whom, like their brethren in the sister Seminary at Princeton, are devoted to missions. The society, recently established, to educate pious young men for the ministry, promises much good to the Church. It has on its funds sixty-six students, in various seminaries, and in various stages of academical learning.

From New Hampshire we are happy to learn that the interests of evangelical religion are in a progressive state; that a missionary society has been long established together with a Bible Society; and that societies, for charitable objects, and for the reformation of morals, are multiplied, and attended with salutary effects. About twenty congregations have been blessed with revivals.

From Vermont we have no formal report, but, by authentic information we learn, that upwards of one hundred societies have been visited with effusions of the Holy Spirit. The work is most remarkable and illustrious. The heritage of Zion is refreshed, and the temples of the Lord are filled with worshippers.

On the whole, the past year has been a year of Zion's glory within our bounds. Cheering are the prospects of the future, and the signs of the times deserve our deepest attention. The Church is, at present, to be viewed in a peculiarly interesting situation. The friends of Zion are awake from a long sleep. The heralds of the gospel are running to and fro through the earth, and knowledge is increasing. Mighty exertions are now making throughout the Christian world. Emperors and kings, with men of every rank, combine their efforts to circulate the Scriptures around the globe. Prejudice and bigotry, which have so long separated those who served our common Lord, and promoted a common cause, seem by degrees to be passing away. The Spirit of God is marvellously shed forth on some parts of Zion. Fervency and concert in prayer appear to be increasing among Christians. May we not hope that the night is far spent, and the day is at hand? May we not hope that the time approaches when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of God and his Christ? Even so, come Lord Jesus, come quickly? Amen."

Ordered, That fifteen hundred copies of the narrative be printed for the use of our congregations, and that Dr. Blatchford and Mr. Lewis be a committee to superintend the printing.

The Assembly proceeded to the order of the day, viz: the hearing the reports of the committees appointed to examine the records of the several Synods.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva, reported, and the book was approved to page 99.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, and the book was approved to page 71.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and the book was approved to page 367.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported, and the book was approved to page 180.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina, reported, and the book was approved to the end of the sessions of July, 1816.

The committeee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio, reported; and the book was approved to page 71, except the subjects of appeals contained in it, and now before the Assembly, but not yet decided.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported; and the book was approved to page 499, excepting certain parts of a pastoral letter, commencing in page 494, and a resolution in page 493, which enjoins on the several Presbyteries belonging to the Synod to call to an account all such ministers as may be suspected to embrace any of the opinions usually called Hopkinsian. On these parts of the records, the Assembly would remark, that while they commend the zeal of the Synod in endeavouring to promote a strict conformity to our public standards, a conformity which cannot but be viewed as of vital importance to the purity and prosperity of the church, the Assembly regret that zeal on this subject should be manifested in such a manner as to be offensive to other denominations, and especially to introduce a spirit of jealousy and suspicion against ministers in good standing, which is calculated to disturb the peace and harmony of our ecclesiastical judicatories. And whereas a passage in the pastoral letter above referred to appears capable of being construed as expressing an opinion unfavourable to revivals of religion, the Assembly would only observe, that they cannot believe that that venerable Synod could have intended to express such an opinion.

The following protests against this resolution were brought in and read, and it was directed by the Assembly that they be recorded on the minutes.

"The subscribers feel themselves aggrieved by the resolution of the General Assembly, adopted on the 24th instant, relative to a pastoral letter and resolution entered on the 493d and 494th pages of the record of the Synod of Philadelphia; and therefore claim as a right that the following protest be entered on the minutes of the General Assembly:

1. We protest against the above resolution of the Assembly, because it highly commends, and at the same time expresses regret at the zeal of the Synod for maintaining purity of doctrine within their bounds, which inconsistency of conduct we think derogatory to the honour of the Assembly, and injurious to the cause of the Redeemer.

2. We protest against the resolution, because it would disparage the zeal of the Synod for the truth, from the circumstance that it is displayed in a manner offensive to other denominations of Christians than our own; which we think an unworthy consideration, unless those other denominations of Christians are sound in the faith, and free from the crime of taking offence from the gospel of Christ.

3. We protest against the resolution of the Assembly, because it unjustly imputes to the Synodical resolution and letter, a tendency to excite a spirit of jealousy and suspicion against ministers in good standing; which we deny to be their tendency, unless those ministers are in good standing whose orthodoxy is publicly called in question.

4. We protest against the said resolution of the Assembly, because it imputes to the Synodical proceedings a tendency to distract the peace and harmony of our ecclesiastical judicatories; whereas in fact the tendency of the same is to prevent the introduction of controversy, contention, and heresy, into any of the Presbyteries under the care of the Synod.

5. We protest against the said resolution, because in pleading a needless

apology for the expressions concerning revivals of religion, it insinuates the very insinuation which it pretends to counteract, that the Synod are opposed to revivals of religion; whereas the Synod has affectionately called upon the churches within their bounds to acknowledge, not less the saving influences of the Holy Ghost, which are frequent and gradual, than those which are uncommon.

6. We protest against said resolution of the Assembly, because it was due to Christian candour, and the dignity of the supreme judicatory of our Church, when acting in the name and professedly by the authority of Christ, that the Synodical resolution and pastoral letter should either have been approved or disapproved in an unambiguous manner.

7. We protest against the resolution of the General Assembly, because we do not believe that the doctrines called Hopkinsian are innocent, or that they are so trivial as not to require the interference of the Synod in the manner adopted in their records to prevent their propagation; and because we believe that when the enemy cometh in like a flood, the supreme judicatory of the Church ought to lift up a standard against him.

8. Finally, we protest against the resolution of the Assembly, because it apparently contradicts the decisions of the Assembly, which condemned the Hopkinsian errors of the Rev. Messrs. Davis and Balch, as will fully appear from the minutes of the General Assembly.

Samuel Martin,
Francis A. Latta,
Thomas Hood,
John Hutchison,
Thomas Holiday,
William A. Boyd,
Robert McCoy."

"We the subscribers, members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, feeling ourselves aggrieved by the adoption, on the part of the General Assembly, of the following resolution, viz:

*Resolved*, That the said records, *i. e.*, the records of the Synod of Philadelphia be approved to page 499, excepting certain parts of a pastoral letter, commencing in page 494, and a resolution in page 493, which enjoins on the several Presbyteries, belonging to the Synod, to call to an account all such ministers as may be supposed to embrace any of the opinions usually called Hopkinsian. On these parts of the records the Assembly would remark, that while they commend the zeal of the Synod, in endeavouring to promote a strict conformity to our public standards, a conformity which cannot but be viewed as of vital importance to the purity and prosperity of the Church, the Assembly regret that zeal on this subject should be manifested in such a manner, as to be offensive to other denominations of Christians; and especially to introduce a spirit of jealousy and suspicion against ministers in good standing, which is calculated to disturb the peace and harmony of our ecclesiastical judicatories. And whereas, a passage in the pastoral letter, above referred to, appears capable of being construed as expressing an opinion unfavourable to revivals of religion, the Assembly would only observe, that they cannot believe that the venerable Synod could have intended to express such an opinion, do solemnly protest against said resolution for the reasons following, viz:

1. Because the said resolution is couched in terms so ambiguous, that it is susceptible of receiving various constructions, and of being appealed to as authority in support of very different opinions; thus some suppose that the General Assembly have, in passing said resolution, supported in the main, the principle of the Synod, and censured only the mode of expression adopted in the pastoral letter and resolution under review. Others suppose that the General Assembly have, in fact, declared the errors, delusions, and heresy, of

the Hopkinsian system to be consonant with the public standards of the Presbyterian Church.

2. Because, after excepting to certain parts of said pastoral letter, which parts speak of errors, delusions, and heresies, the said resolution takes exceptions to, and in so far censures a resolution of the Synod, which speaks of the errors of that system commonly called Hopkinsian, as if the Synod designed to guard their churches and Presbyteries against merely opinions held by Hopkinsians, even though held in common with the Synod.

3. Because the said resolution appears to assume the fact that the distinguishing doctrines of the Hopkinsian system are either consonant with our public standards, or are of so trivial a nature, that their departure from strict conformity ought not to be regarded as matter of censure; whereas we suppose them to be essentially contradictory to sound, orthodox doctrines, and consequently, the preaching of them to be a violation of ordination vows.

4. Because the Synod, possessing the power, according to our Form of Government, 'to make such regulations for the benefit of their whole body, and of the Presbyteries and churches under their care, as shall be agreeable to the word of God, and not contradictory to the decisions of the General Assembly,' have been censured by the passage of said resolution for exercising that power, in taking measures to promote the common advantage of those committed to their care, in perfect consonance with the word of God, and with the decisions of the General Assembly, as recorded in volume I., pages 175, 176, in regard to the errors of the Rev. Hezekiah Balch.

5. Because in expressing the regret of the Assembly, that zeal on the subject under consideration has been manifested in such manner as to be offensive to other denominations of Christians, the said resolution does, in effect, go to restrain our ecclesiastical judicatories from expressing the doctrines of our public standards, in so far as those doctrines do not accord with those of other denominations.

6. Because the resolution unjustly charges the Synod with introducing a spirit of jealousy and suspicion against ministers in good standing, and thus with proceeding in a manner calculated to disturb the peace and harmony of ecclesiastical judicatories; whereas the real design of the Synod was to repel the assaults of error, delusion, and heresy; and the true tendency of their proceedings was, by cutting off the occasion of collision of sentiment, to maintain the peace and harmony of their churches.

7. Because the Synod in their pastoral letter does not even seem to be unfavourable to revivals of religion; and because the said resolution does therefore seem to countenance an unfounded suspicion on this subject, by noticing an apparent capability of its being construed as expressing an opinion unfavourable to revivals of religion.

JAMES SNODGRASS, ALEXANDER BOYD,
JOHN E. LATTA, ROBERT F. N. SMITH,
JOHN MCKISSICK."*

---

* As the transaction referred to in the preceding minutes affords the first indication of that difference of doctrinal opinions which, in subsequent years, so frequently interrupted the harmony of the Church, and eventually led to its division, we have thought it would be gratifying to many to subjoin that portion of the Pastoral Letter of the Synod of Philadelphia which called forth the rebukes of the General Assembly. It is as follows:

"The Synod assembled in Lancaster at the present time, consists of a greater number of members than have been convened at any meeting for many years: and from their free conversation on the state of religion, it appears that all the Presbyteries are more than commonly alive to the importance of contending earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints and of resisting the introduction of Arian, Socinian, Arminian, and Hopkinsian

Messrs. Corning, Deering, and Havens, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Messrs. Haliday and Howley obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of the Assembly.

Dr. Miller was added to the committee appointed to prepare a draught of a pastoral letter to the churches.

The committee to whom was referred the report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read, was recommitted to the same committee.

It being the order of the day for the election of Trustees of the General Assembly, it was determined to hold the election in the afternoon for six Trustees, being one third of the number, which is the number the Assembly have, by the rules on the subject, a right to change every year, and a nomination was made, and the members directed to come prepared with their ballots in the afternoon.

An election to fill the vacancies in the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, was made the order of the day for to-morrow; and a nomination of persons to fill the vacancies was made.

The committee appointed to devise ways and means for increasing the funds for missionary purposes, reported; and their report being read and amended was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Assembly recommend and earnestly solicit, that

---

heresies, which are some of the means by which the enemy of souls would, if possible, deceive the very elect.

The Synod desire to cherish a stronger regard for the truth as it is in Jesus, than they find at present subsisting among themselves, and because they are not ignorant of the disposition of many good men to cry 'peace,' where there should be no peace, and 'there is no danger,' in cases in which God commands us to avoid the appearance of evil, they would affectionately exhort each Presbytery under their care, to be strict in the examination of candidates for licensure or ordination, upon the subject of those delusions of the present age, which seem to be a combination of most of the innovations made upon Christian doctrine in former times.

May the time never come in which our ecclesiastical courts shall determine that Hopkinsianism and the doctrines of our Confession of Faith are the same thing, or that men are less exposed now than in the days of the apostles to the danger of perverting the right ways of the Lord.

The Synod would exhort particularly all the elders of the churches to beware of those who have made such pretended discoveries in Christian theology as require an abandonment of the 'form of sound words,' contained in our excellent Confession and the Holy Scriptures.

In some portions of our Synodical bounds, exertions have been made, but with little effect, to propagate the doctrine of universal salvation. We rejoice that the shafts of Satan should fall ineffectual from the shield of Jesus, and we desire all persons under our care to present this shield, by maintaining and diffusing assiduously the sentiments of the word of God, in opposition to every damning error.

Three or four of our churches have experienced what is commonly called a revival of religion, and to them accessions of communicants have been numerous; but in many other congregations, a gradual but almost constant multiplication of the professed friends of Zion reminds us, that if the thunder-storm in summer excites the most attention, it is the continued blessing from the clouds which replenishes the springs, and makes glad the harvest of the husbandman. For the many who are united in a short time, and for the many who are gradually gathered to Christ, not by the great and strong wind that rends the mountains, nor by the earthquake, but by the still small voice, which cometh not with observation, we would give our Redeemer thanks, and desire the churches to bless him, no less for the daily dew, than the latter and the early rain." *Editor of the Board.*

young people, composing Bible classes and catechetical schools, do form themselves into societies, or associations for the purpose of strentghening the hands of the Assembly, in accomplishing their vast designs of unfurling still wider the missionary banner, and of aiding the Theological Seminary, and providing it with resources for a greater number of poor and pious young men, who need a gratuitous support during the period in which they are prosecuting those studies, which are preparatory to entering on the work of the gospel ministry.

The Stated Clerk having declined choosing a person to print the extracts, and an agent to forward them to the several Presbyteries, the Assembly proceeded to elect; and Mr. William Bradford was chosen printer and agent.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to correspond with the Dutch and Associate Reformed churches, and other churches holding the same creed, to endeavour to ascertain whether the members of those churches will unite with those of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in the formation of a society for foreign missions; and if possible, report to the next Assembly a plan of a society to be established for the purpose, reported, and their report being read was approved, and is as follows, viz:

## CONSTITUTION, &c.

*Article* 1. This society shall be composed of the Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, Associate Reformed, and all other churches which may choose to join them, and shall be known by the name of, *The United Foreign Missionary Society.*

*Art.* 2. The object of the society shall be to spread the gospel among the Indians of North America, the inhabitants of Mexico and South America, and in other portions of the heathen and anti-Christian world.

*Art.* 3. The business of the society shall be conducted by a board consisting of a President, six Vice-presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and twelve Managers; to be annually chosen by the society. They shall have power to enact their own bye-laws. Seven shall constitute a quorum.

*Art.* 4. The Board shall present their annual report to the highest judicatories of the three denominations for their information.

*Art.* 5. Any person paying three dollars annually, or thirty dollars at one time, shall be a member of the society.

*Art.* 6. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in the city of New York, on the———.

*Art.* 7. Missionaries shall be selected from the three churches indiscriminately.

*Art.* 8. This constitution may be altered by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, at an annual meeting, with the consent of the highest judicatories of the three denominations.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly approve the foregoing constitution for a Society for Foreign Missions, and recommend to all their ministers and people to give the measure their active and zealous support.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. John B. Romeyn, and Mr. Zechariah Lewis, be, and they hereby are appointed to meet, on behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, with committees from the General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, and the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, as soon as may be, in the city of New York, for the purpose of carrying the aforesaid plan into operation.

The committee appointed to make distribution of the Commissioners' Fund, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That there is due to the commissioners, $1951.31, allowing them 4¾ cents per mile, to defray their travelling expenses.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue warrants for the payment of the preceding sum to the several commissioners, as specified in the report of the committee. (See files of 1817.)

Mr. Boardman resigned his seat to the Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., the alternate mentioned in their commission; and Mr. Potts resigned his seat to the Rev. John Gloucester, the alternate named in their commission; and Dr. Romeyn, and Mr. Gloucester, were received as members.

Messrs. Searle, and Martin, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Francis A. Latta obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Mr. Chandler resigned his seat to the Rev. James Patterson, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Patterson was received as a member.

The committee to whom was referred a question from the Synod of Ohio, which had been overtured, relative to a person withdrawing from the communion of the church, reported, and their report being read, and for some time discussed, the further consideration of the subject was indefinitely postponed.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, an election was held for six Trustees of the General Assembly. After the ballots were taken, the Rev. James P. Wilson, D. D., the Rev. William Neill, D. D., the Rev. William Latta, George C. Potts, and Messrs. Thomas Latimer, and Alexander Henry, having the highest number of votes, were declared duly elected Trustees of the General Assembly, in the places of Drs. Blair, Smith, McKnight, Rev. John W. Doak, and Messrs. Hazard, and Jonathan Smith.

Dr. Chapman, and Messrs. Witherspoon, and Phillips, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of the Assembly, after the sessions of to-morrow morning; and Mr. Walter Smith, after the session of this afternoon.

An appeal from the decision of the Synod of Ohio, by the First Presbyterian church in Cincinnati, was overtured. After hearing the documents on the subject of this appeal, and the parties at some length, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Perkins obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

It being the order of the day for this morning, an election was held for Directors of the Theological Seminary to fill the vacancies in the Board. The ballots being taken, were committed to Messrs. Snodgrass, Wisner, and Basset, to read them, and report to the Assembly the number of the votes given for the several candidates.

The report of the committee to whom was referred the report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, was again brought in, and being read and discussed by paragraphs, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"The committee to whom was referred the fifth annual report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, beg leave to report to the General Assembly the following particulars:

1. The Board have through the year progressed in the erection of the principal edifice for the Theological Seminary. It is now enclosed, and has been erected on the plan reported to a former Assembly, and approved by them. The Board have expended the whole of the appropriation of the last year, and the unexpended balance of the former year, amounting together to $20,592.24. And the building committee finding that this sum was insufficient to put the building under cover, and secure it from the weather, which was deemed very important, before the winter commenced, which the last Assembly ordered to be done, felt themselves reluctantly constrained to incur an expense beyond the appropriation. They accordingly expended $3000, and became responsible themselves for the sum, in confidence that the Assembly would agree to assume the same. After expending this sum, the committee found that on carefully collecting the outstanding accounts, and which it was impracticable to collect before, there was due an additional sum of $1400. In the spring they found that several things still needed to be done on the interior of the building, to secure it from the weather. But, unwilling to take further responsibility on themselves, they procured the calling of a special meeting of the Board, and laid this matter before them. The Board, considering the necessity of the case, passed the following resolution, viz: That it be recommended to the committee of building to proceed immediately in doing those things which are absolutely necessary to protect the edifice from the weather. Conformably to this resolution, the building committee have proceeded in necessary expenses to the amount of $900; making an excess of expenditure above the appropriation of $5300. The Board believed that imperious necessity required the course that has been pursued; and they had no alternative, but either to leave what they had already done to take great injury, or to exceed the appropriation in the expenditures, as they have done. The Board would further report, that they have materials on hand amounting in value to about $1500.

The committee on this part of the report would respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That under the imperious necessity of the case, the proceedings of the Board be approved; that the debt incurred by them be assumed, and that the Treasurer pay it.

2. Of the appropriation of the last Assembly, for the general purposes of the institution, of $4000, together with the balance of the former year of $541, the Board have expended the following sums, viz: Professors' salaries and house rent, $4200. Travelling expenses of distant Directors, $53.80. Contingencies for printing, &c., $135.41. Total, $4389.21. Leaving an unexpended balance of $151.79.

The committee respectfully recommend that, in connection with $151.79, the unexpended balance of the last year's appropriation, the sum of $4348.21, amounting to $5500, be appropriated for the general purposes of the institution for the present year.

3. The Board would farther report to the Assembly, that, to render the Theological edifice fit to accommodate the institution, it will be necessary to finish the two lower stories, except such public rooms as may not be immediately wanted, and also some lodging rooms in the third story; and that the expense to complete these, will be about fifteen or sixteen thousand dollars, which sum, according to the statement they have just received from the Treasurer of the General Assembly, is about the whole of the funds of the Theological Seminary, except those which can be appropriated only to the support of necessitous students.

With reference to these particulars your committee would submit this resolution.

*Resolved*, That, after the payment of the debt incurred the last year, and the appropriation for the general purposes of the institution for the present year is answered, the Board of Directors be authorized to expend on the edifice, out of moneys that may be received, a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars.

4. From this statement the Assembly will readily perceive the imperious necessity of making, without delay, vigorous exertions to increase the funds of the institution. On this subject the Board beg leave to lay before the Assembly, for their consideration, the following extract from their minutes, viz: 'The Committee of Ways and Means made a report, which being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows: The Committee of Ways and Means having taken the subject of procuring funds for the Seminary under due consideration, are of opinion that no plan can be devised better than that recommended by the General Assembly of the last year, and that said plan, if carried into execution, would furnish sufficient funds for all the purposes of the institution. They, therefore, suggest to the Board, the propriety of recommending to the General Assembly the adoption of measures to carry their plan into efficient, extensive, and general operation. And they are of opinion that the best measures would be to appoint, if they can be found, a few responsible agents in the great districts of our Church, who shall devote themselves to this business throughout the greater part of the year, and be suitably remunerated for their services. The committee also beg leave to suggest, that it be submitted to the General Assembly to recommend, earnestly, a collection to be taken up in all the churches under their care, on the first Sabbath of November next, or, if unavoidably prevented on that day, on some following Sabbath of that month; and that the pastors of the churches be requested to adapt their discourses, on that day, to the occasion; and that the moneys thus collected be transmitted as soon as possible to Isaac Snowden, of Philadelphia, Treasurer of the General Assembly. Your committee respectfully recommend that this report of the Committee of Ways and Means be adopted by this Assembly, and as far as possible be carried into execution.'

5. The Board beg leave to call the attention of the Assembly to another subject, which they consider of much importance to the interests of the Church. A large majority of the students who come to the Seminary leave it before they have completed their course of study; some of them before they have proceeded to any considerable length. The Board consider this as a serious evil, and they submit to the Assembly to provide a remedy if they shall judge that it admits of remedy. Your committee can advise no effectual remedy for this evil. As calculated in some measure to answer the purpose, we would suggest an earnest recommendation from this Assembly to the Presbyteries and students on this subject.

6. The term of office of the following Directors expires during the sessions of the present Assembly, viz: Ministers—Gardiner Spring, Andrew Flinn, D. D., David Comfort, John E. Latta, Samuel Blatchford, D. D., James Hall, D. D., and Francis Herron. Elders—William Haslet, Divie Bethune, Robert Lenox. The committee recommend that this election take place at the beginning of the session, or next Monday afternoon. All which is respectfully submitted. ROBERT H. CHAPMAN, *Chairman*."

Drs. Leland, Neill, and Porter, were appointed a committee to look out for suitable agents to collect moneys for the Theological Seminary, agreeably to the recommendation contained in the foregoing report.

Messrs. Herron, Axtell, and Spring, were appointed a committee to take into consideration the part of the above report which relates to the students leaving the Seminary before they have completed their course of study, and to report to the Assembly regulations proper to be adopted on this subject.

This last committee reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That in their opinion nothing can be done, consistently with the form of government, and the present plan of the Theological Seminary, except to recommend to Presbyteries, and students of the Seminary, that the course of study prescribed by the Assembly be in every case completed; and it is hereby accordingly recommended."

The committee appointed to count the votes taken for Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported, and from their report it appeared that the following persons were elected for three years, viz: Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., Francis Herron, James Hall, D. D., John Johnston, Robert G. Wilson, David Comfort, John E. Latta, ministers; and Messrs. Divie Bethune, Robert Lenox, and John McMullin, elders.

The business left unfinished yesterday was resumed, viz: the consideration of the appeal from the decision of the Synod of Ohio by the First Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati. The appellants declared to the Assembly that several important documents had not been forwarded by the Synod. After considerable discussion, the Assembly passed a vote to proceed in the business, with a view to a decision. The appellants stated that in consequence of the want of the aforesaid documents, they would, with the leave of the Assembly, withdraw their appeal. The Assembly gave leave, and the appeal was withdrawn.

The committee appointed to prepare a pastoral letter, to be adopted by the Assembly, reported a draught, which being read, was adopted, and is as follows:

## PASTORAL LETTER.

*The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to the churches under their care, wish grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

VERY DEAR BRETHREN—Assembled by the good providence of God as the supreme judicatory of our Church, we are constrained to address you, and to endeavour to impart to you some of those feelings to which our counsels have given rise, and which are suggested by the present aspect of the Church and the world.

From the printed 'narrative of the state of religion within our bounds,' which accompanies this address, you will learn that although we have heard of some facts which are matter of regret and humiliation, 'the general aspect of the Church of God has never been more favourable, within our knowledge, than at the present time.' The gradual increase of gospel light; the extension of the blessings of education to all classes and ages; the growing diffusion of missionary zeal and exertions; the rapid multiplication of Bible societies, and through their instrumentality, the wonderful spread of the knowledge of the word of life, in languages and countries hitherto strangers to the sacred volume; the numerous associations for evangelical, benevolent, and humane purposes, which have arisen, and are daily arising in every part of our bounds; and above all, the converting and sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit, which have been poured out for some time past, and especially during the last year, in many of the congregations belonging to our communion—form an assemblage which cannot fail to be in a high degree interesting and animating to the friends of pure and undefiled religion; an assemblage which, while it gratifies for the present the pious and benevolent heart, must excite the most precious hopes for the future. Such mighty plans of benevolence, such wonderful combinations, such a general movement of mankind, in promoting the great cause of human happiness, were surely never before witnessed. The days of darkness, we fondly hope, are passing away, and the period drawing nigh when the angel, bearing the trumpet of the everlasting gospel, shall carry his holy, life-giving message to every kindred, and people, and nation, and tongue.

The General Assembly, standing, as it is their privilege to do, at the confluence of so many streams of information on these great subjects, while they communicate a summary of this information to the churches under their care, desire to accompany it with a word of affectionate exhortation, the object of which is to engage every heart, and every hand, in promoting, to the utmost of their power, the interests of that kingdom, which is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

At such a period, dear brethren, let it be impressed upon the mind of every member of our Church, that we are called to humble, diligent, persevering exertion. Much has been done, but much more remains to be done; and much, we hope, will be done by us. Every day makes a demand upon the time, the affections, the prayers, the property, and the influence of the people of God, which it would be ingratitude, cruelty, nay treachery, to repel. Let every one, then, in his place and proportion, endeavour daily to add something to the common amount of effort to prepare the way of the Lord. No one can tell how much it may please the sovereign disposer of events to accomplish by means of the humblest exertions. This, however, we know, that those who are steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, shall find that their labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Let the ministers of the gospel, in our communion, be every where found engaged in preaching the truth as it is in Jesus, with affectionate zeal. Let them go before the people in every holy example, and in every pious and benevolent exertion. Let it be manifest to all that they seek not their own, but the things which are Jesus Christ's. Surely there never was a time when the watchmen on the walls of Zion were more solemnly bound to give themselves wholly to their work; or when they had more encouragement to plan and labour for their Master's honour! Surely there never was a time, when those, whose duty it is to guide the exertions of their fellow men, had more reason to feel their responsibility, and to ask for wisdom and strength from above! Let ministers take great and comprehensive views of the signs of the times, and the prospects of the Church; and while they point out the way to those who are willing to be workers together with God, let it be seen that it is their meat and their drink to share in the labours, as well as in the rewards of their Redeemer's kingdom.

Let all the members of our churches consider themselves as called upon, in their several stations, to do something, to do much for Christ. Millions of our race are still sunk in ignorance and depravity. Dark and waste places abound, even in our most populous and enlightened neighbourhoods, and still more in the remote portions of our Church. In very large districts within the United States, there are no Bibles, no Sabbaths, no sanctuaries, none to show men the way of salvation. Can a single heart be unimpressed, or a single hand idle, while such calls for compassion and exertion abound? No, brethren; these obligations, we trust, are too tender not to be felt; these calls too solemn not to be heard. Be entreated then, with one accord, to come forward to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Embrace every opportunity, to the extent of the ability which God has given you, to form, and vigorously support missionary associations, Bible societies, plans for the distribution of religious tracts,and exertions for extending the benefits of knowledge, and especially of spiritual knowledge, to all ages and classes of persons around you. Exert yourselves individually, and in combination, to oppose all those degrading and destructive vices over which we have so long had reason to mourn. Endeavour by your example and your influence to discourage the unnecessary use of spirituous liquors; to promote the sanctification of the Lord's day; to guard against a criminal conformity to the world; to promote a general attendance on the means of grace; and to advance the great interests of truth, purity, and righteousness, in all manner of conversation.

In these hallowed labours let none refuse to join. It is among the distinguished glories of the commencement of the nineteenth century that pious females are more extensively associated, and more actively useful, in promoting evangelical and benevolent objects than in any former period of the world. Let them go on with increasing activity and ardour in these exertions, so worthy of women professing godliness, and so useful to mankind. And let them by precept, as well as by example, train up their daughters in principles and habits so well calculated to elevate the female character, and to enlarge the sum of human happiness.

Let not even lisping childhood or tender youth be idle. Let every Bible class, every school association, every employment which brings your beloved children together, be made a medium for conveying to their minds that benign impression, which shall enlist them on the side of truth, and of the Church of God, from the earliest dawn of reason. Happy congregations, happy families, in which even babes and sucklings shall be taught, as in times of old to sing, Hosanna to him that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

In a word, let your plans of co-operation in carrying on these works of piety and benevolence, embrace every class and every age, and be pursued with growing ardour, until every congregation within our bounds shall be completely organized for exertion to promote the temporal and eternal welfare of men—until every heart that can lift a prayer to the throne of grace, and every hand that can cast a mite into the treasury of God, shall be fully engaged in this mighty effort of Christian charity—until the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose—until men, under the reign of millennial glory, we trust not far distant, shall live together as brethren indeed, having no other wishes than to promote their common happiness, and to glorify their common God.

To these efforts in behalf of the cause of Christ, join fervent united prayer. We need not remind you, brethren, that all Zion's blessings come down from her King and Head, and that he will be inquired of by his people to do for them that which they need and desire. We are persuaded that all those periods and churches which have been favoured with special revivals of religion, have been also distinguished by visible union and concert in prayer. We entreat you, brethren, to cherish this union and concert. We especially exhort you to pay renewed and more solemn attention to the monthly concert in prayer, recommended by a former Assembly, and so generally and happily observed. Has not the Saviour promised, that if any two of his people agree, as touching any thing they desire, he will grant their request?

What blessings, then, may we not hope will be shed down upon the Church, when the thousands of our Israel are found bowing together before the throne of mercy, saying, "For Zion's sake we will not hold our peace, and for Jerusalem's sake we will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth!"

Endeavour to maintain a spirit of harmony with all denominations of

Christians. While you contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, and bear a faithful testimony to the apostolic doctrine and order, which we profess to receive; let no bigotry, or prejudice, no party rancour or offensive crimination, pollute your testimony. Remember that the period is approaching, when all real Christians shall see eye to eye; when they shall be united in opinion as well as in affection. Cherish now the sentiments which correspond with this delightful anticipation. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and evil speaking, be put away from among you, with all malice; and continually look and pray for the happy period when believers of every name shall agree to act together upon the great principles of our common salvation.

Finally, dear brethren, be united among yourselves. If you desire to profit by your spiritual privileges; if you hope to be instrumental in promoting the cause of Christ, or to be honoured with his blessing, cherish harmony of affection, and union of effort. Besides the common bonds of Christian love, which unite the great family of believers, the ministers and members of the Presbyterian Church are cemented by a compact which every honest man cannot fail to appreciate. We mean the 'Confession of Faith' of our Church. While we believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the only infallible rule of faith and practice, we do also, if we deal faithfully with God and man, sincerely receive and adopt this confession, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures. Let us adhere to this standard with fidelity; and endeavour to transmit to our children, pure and undefiled, a treasure, which our fathers, at great expense, have under God bequeathed to us. But while we hold fast the form of sound words which we have received, let us guard against indulging a spirit of controversy, than which few things are more unfriendly to the life and power of godliness. It is never necessary to sacrifice charity in order to maintain faith and hope. That differences of opinion, acknowledged on all hands to be of a minor class, may and ought to be tolerated, among those who are agreed in great and leading views of divine truth, is a principle on which the godly have so long and so generally acted, that it seems unnecessary, at the present day, to seek arguments for its support. Our fathers, in early periods of the history of our Church, had their peculiarities and diversities of opinion; which, yet, however, did not prevent them from loving one another, and cordially acting together; and by their united prayers and exertions, transmitting to us a goodly inheritance; and we hope to be favoured with more than their success.

The great adversary will, no doubt, be disposed to sow the seeds of discord and division among you. But resist him in this, as well as in all his other insidious efforts. Surely those who can come together, on the great principles of our public standards, however they may differ on non-essential points, ought not to separate, or to indulge bitterness or prejudice against each other. Dear brethren, let there be no divisions among you; but be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment. Follow the things which make for peace, and the things whereby ye may edify one another. Behold how good, and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell in unity! Brethren, farewell! Love one another; for love is of God, and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. Be of one mind! live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. Amen!

Signed by order of the General Assembly.

JONAS COE, Moderator.

*Resolved*, That two thousand copies of this letter be printed, and that the committee superintend the printing.

The following persons were chosen and appointed a Board of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia and its vicinity, Rev. Drs. Green, Alexander, Wilson, Miller, Janeway, and Neill; Rev. Messrs. Potts and Skinner, and Messrs. Boudinot, Hazard, Connelly, Haslet, Smith, Ralston, and Bayard.

Of New York, Rev. Dr. Romeyn, Messrs. Lenox, Rodgers, Bethune, Caldwell, and Lewis.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. David Higgins.

Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Jonas Coe, D. D.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, Rev. James Richards, D. D.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. Elisha McCurdy.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe, D. D.

Of the Synod of Ohio, Rev. Robert G. Wilson.

Of the Synod of North Carolina, Rev. James Hall, D. D.

Of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D.

Of the Synod of Tennessee, Rev. James W. Stephenson, D. D.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Missions be requested to prepare and lay before the next Assembly, the plan of a constitution to be adopted for said Board.

Messrs. Turner, Young, and Fleming, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly after this day; and Mr. William Boyd, after this morning.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The following question, from the Presbytery of West Tennessee, was overtured, viz: Can a man, consistently with the rule of moral duty contained in the word of God, marry his brother's widow, or does its impropriety arise from positive laws contained in the Bible?

After considerable discussion, this question was committed to Drs. Richards, Romeyn, and Griffin, and Messrs. Hornblower and Lewis, who were directed to report on the subject to the next Assembly.

The committee to whom was referred the appointment of suitable agents to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That one agent be appointed for this purpose in each of our Presbyteries, to co-operate with the special agents hereafter named, viz:

Presbytery of Champlain, Rev. James Johnstone. Presbytery of Geneva, Rev. Henry Axtel. Presbytery of Cayuga, Rev. William Wisner. Presbytery of Onondaga, Rev. Elnathan Walker. Presbytery of Oneida, Rev. Noah Coe. Presbytery of Albany, Rev. Halsey A. Wood. Presbytery of Columbia, Rev. David Porter, D. D. Presbytery of Londonderry, Rev. G. B. Perry, and Rev. Ephraim Woodford. Presbytery of Long Island, Rev. Lathrop Thompson. Presbytery of Hudson, Rev. John Johnston. Presbytery of New York, Rev. H. Blatchford. Presbytery of Jersey, Rev. William McDowell. Presbytery of Brunswick, Rev. Leverett A. F. Huntington, and Rev. John F. Clark. Presbytery of Philadelphia, Rev. J. J. Janeway, D. D. Presbytery of New Castle, Rev. John E. Latta. Presbyteries of Huntingdon and Northumberland, Rev. Asa Dunham, Special Agent. Presbytery of Carlisle, Rev. George Duffield, and Rev. James Patterson, Special Agent. Presbytery of Baltimore, Rev. Andrew Hunter. Presbytery of Redstone, Rev. William Spear. Presbytery of Grand River, Rev. William Handford.

Presbytery of Ohio, Rev. Thomas Hoge. Presbytery of Hartford, Rev. Thomas L. Hughes. Presbytery of Erie, Rev. Samuel Tait. Presbytery of Washington, Rev. James Hoge. Presbytery of Lancaster, Rev. John Wright. Presbytery of Miami, Rev. Joshua L. Wilson. Presbytery of Transylvania, Rev. Thomas Cleland. Presbytery of Union, Rev. —— Coffin, D. D. Presbytery of Muhlenburg, Rev. William Dickey. Presbytery of West Tennessee, Rev. James W. Stephenson, D. D. Presbyteries of Hanover, Lexington, Winchester, Abingdon, and South Carolina, Rev. J. W. Doak, and Rev. James Hillhouse. Presbytery of Orange, Rev. S. Caldwell, D. D Presbytery of Fayetteville, Rev. Colin McIver. Presbytery of Harmony, Rev. John Couser. Presbytery of Concord, Rev. James Hall, D. D. Presbytery of Hopewell, Rev. S. S. Beman. Presbytery of Mississippi, Rev. D. Smith. Presbytery of West Lexington, Rev. James Blythe, D. D. Presbytery of Louisville, Rev. D. C. Banks.

Special agents—For the western and northern districts of New York, Rev. Dr. Fitch, and Rev. Dr. O. Griswold. For the city of New York, Dr. Blatchford, and Mr. Chester. For Ohio state, Mr. Gilbert. For the cities of Trenton and New Brunswick, and the villages of Newark and Elizabethtown, in the state of New Jersey, the Rev. Ezra Fisk. For the city of Philadelphia, Rev. Dr. Green, and Samuel Bayard. For Lancaster and York, Pennsylvania, Mr. Boyer. For Harrisburgh and Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and for the Synod of Pittsburgh, do., Mr. Herron. For the state of Kentucky, Rev. Eli Smith. For Baltimore, in Maryland, Rev. Dr. Neill. For Savannah, Georgia, and in North Carolina, Mr. Witherspoon. For Jersey Presbytery, Rev. John McDowell. At discretion southward of Pennsylvania, Dr. Romeyn, and Dr. Nott; and in case of Dr. Nott's failure, then Dr. Blatchford. For New Orleans and vicinity, Rev. S. Larned.

The committee would further submit the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, 1. That the Presbyterial agents be allowed their necessary expenses for travelling, so soon as they shall render an account to the General Assembly; and that the special agents be allowed forty dollars monthly, while actually engaged in this business, in addition to their travelling expenses.

*Resolved*, 2. That the Stated Clerk procure to be printed the following certificate, and send a copy of it by mail or otherwise to each of the agents as soon as possible, viz: 'The bearer is appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, to solicit donations by subscription or otherwise, for the Theological Seminary at Princeton, in New Jersey.'"

Messrs. Kemper, Spring, Gray, McCay, Robert F. N. Smith, and Thomas B. Clark, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly, after this evening.

An appeal by Mr. John Todd, from a decision of the Synod of Kentucky was overtured and read. After reading the documents on the subject, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 28th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The business left unfinished yesterday, viz: the consideration of the appeal of Mr. Todd, from the decision of the Synod of Kentucky, affirming a decision of the Presbytery of Transylvania, by which decision Mr. Todd was deposed from the gospel ministry, was taken up, and after considerable discussion of the subject of the appeal, the following resolution was adopted, viz:

The Assembly having heard the documents in this case, were of opinion, that the way is not clear, at present, for the reversal of the sentence of suspension; but as it appears to the Assembly, that Mr. Todd's opinions have not been perfectly understood; and whereas there appears to have been some irregularity, as to the nature of the testimony admitted on the trial before the Presbytery; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Transylvania be directed to reconsider the case of Mr. Todd; to afford him another opportunity of explaining himself; and, if they should be satisfied, to restore him to his former standing.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary be authorized to fill up vacancies occasioned by the failure of agents appointed by the Assembly; and in case they hear of unoccupied ground, where there is a prospect of obtaining aid, they have the power of appointing agents for such places.

*Resolved*, That if any of the agents decline their appointment, they give information thereof as soon as possible to the Rev. John McDowell, of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, Secretary of the Board of Directors.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be, and they are hereby authorized to sell and convey one of the lots with the buildings thereon erected, that were devised for the use of the Theological Seminary; if in the judgment of the Board of Directors of said Seminary, such sale can be made to advantage, or without material loss.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be, and they are hereby authorized to take all such measures as in their judgment may be necessary for securing the benefit of the contingent devise, made by the late honourable John Wheelock, of Hanover, in the State of New Hampshire, of certain property therein mentioned, for the use of the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church.

The report of the committee to whom was referred the collection of hymns, was again taken into consideration. After some discussion, the subject was indefinitely postponed.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk for his services rendered the Assembly, and for the stationery furnished for their use.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly, be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of twenty-four dollars to Joseph Jacobs for twelve days' attendance upon the Assembly.

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain whether any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was agreed to report none to the Presbyteries as delinquents in this respect.

*Resolved*, That the Assembly be dissolved, and that another Assembly be required to meet in this church, on the third Thursday in May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator accordingly dissolved the Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution. Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1817.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Geneva, | 30 | 8 | 44 | 1711 | $ 101 |
| Cayuga, | 12 | 1 | 22 | 932 | 43 |
| Onondaga, | 18 | 2 | 27 | 1539 | 238 |
| Oneida, | 14 | — | 15 | 1042 | 110 |
| Albany, | 12 | 4 | 19 | 1760 | 295 |
| Columbia, | 12 | 2 | 24 | 566 | 364 |
| Londonderry, | 18 | 11 | 11 | 1024 | 106 |
| Champlain, | 9 | — | 13 | 732 | 4 |
| St Lawrence. | No report. | | | | |
| Long Island, | 13 | 1 | 16 | 1023 | 204 |
| Hudson, | 24 | 2 | 34 | 2754 | 386 |

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York, | 15 | 4 | 11 | 1954 | 775 |
| Jersey, | 24 | 10 | 25 | 4541 | 464 |
| New Brunswick, | 26 | 7 | 33 | 1847 | 403 |
| Philadelphia, | 26 | 1 | 36 | 2617 | 798 |
| New Castle, | 25 | 1 | 48 | 1320 | 121 |
| Huntingdon, | 10 | — | 27 | 1559 | 60 |
| Northumberland, | 7 | 1 | 14 | 815 | 86 |
| Carlisle, | 20 | 3 | 30 | 2216 | 339 |
| Baltimore, | 13 | 4 | 9 | 628 | 128 |
| Redstone, | 17 | — | 27 | 1018 | 246 |
| Grand River, | 9 | 1 | 20 | 626 | 70 |
| Ohio, | 27 | 1 | 41 | 3062 | 525 |
| Hartford, | 9 | — | 23 | 570 | — |
| Erie, | 12 | — | 41 | 890 | 30 |
| Washington, | 9 | — | 24 | 1186 | 464 |
| Lancaster, | 18 | — | 46 | 840 | 142 |
| Miami, | 12 | 1 | 28 | 740 | 137 |
| West Lexington. | No report. | | | | |
| Transylvania, | 10 | — | 28 | 633 | 72 |
| Louisville. | No report. | | | | |
| Union, | 8 | 1 | 14 | 627 | 49 |
| Muhlenburg, | 7 | 1 | 22 | 260 | 30 |
| West Tennessee, | 6 | 3 | 19 | 644 | — |
| Shiloh. | No report. | | | | |
| Mississippi. | No report. | | | | |
| Hanover, | 15 | 3 | 22 | 598 | 1622 |
| Lexington, | 15 | 1 | 31 | 599 | 214 |
| Winchester, | 11 | 3 | 17 | 606 | 563 |
| Abingdon. | No report. | | | | |
| Orange, | 9 | 5 | 21 | 546 | 230 |
| Concord. | No report. | | | | |
| Fayetteville, | 10 | 1 | 29 | 1889 | 208 |
| South Carolina. | No report. | | | | |
| Hopewell. | No report. | | | | |
| Harmony, | 14 | 1 | 28 | 618 | |
| Total, | 536 | 84 | 556 | 47,568 | $9,627 |

* * *

## 1818.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 21*st*, 1818.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. Jonas Coe, D. D., the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from Rom. xi. 13, last clause of the verse: "I magnify my office."

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF NIAGARA—The Rev. David M. Smith, and James H. Mills.

PRESBYTERY OF ONTARIO—The Rev. Ebenezer Fitch, D. D., and Rev. Comfort T. Williams. Mr. Elisha Parish, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA—The Rev. Dirck C. Lansing. Mr. Squire Stone, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. Joseph Merrill, and Rev. Jesse Townsend. Mr. William Holton, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF BATH—The Rev. Hezekiah Woodruff.

Presbytery of Oneida—The Rev. Oliver Wetmore, and Rev. John Smith. Mr. Luther Holbrook, elder.

Presbytery of Columbia—The Rev. Jonas Coe, D. D., and Rev. John Younglove. Mr. John House, elder.

Presbytery of Albany—The Rev. John Chester, and Rev. Halsey A. Wood. Messrs. Ananias Platt, and Alexander Kelly, elders.

Presbytery of Hudson—The Rev. Ebenezer Grant, Rev. John Johnston, Rev. Eli Hyde, and Rev. Eliphalet Price. Messrs. Joshua Ward, and Adam Millspaugh, elders.

Presbytery of New York—The Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., Rev. Alexander McClelland, and Rev. Henry Blatchford. Messrs. John R. B. Rodgers, Rensselaer Havens, and Strong Sturges, elders.

Presbytery of Long Island—The Rev. Nathaniel Reeves, Rev. Samuel Robertson, and Rev. Henry Fuller.

Presbytery of Jersey—The Rev. Stephen Thompson, Rev. Henry Mills, and Rev. Barnabas King. Messrs. Ebenezer Coe, and Alexander Semple, elders.

Presbytery of New Brunswick—The Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., Rev. John Boggs, and Rev. Samuel B. How. Messrs. John Nelson, and John Beatty, elders.

Presbytery of Newton—The Rev. John F. Clarke, and Rev. Horace Galpin.

Presbytery of Philadelphia—The Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, D. D., Rev. Ezra S. Ely, D. D., Rev. George C. Potts, Rev. Jonathan Freeman, and Rev. Robert B. Belville. Messrs. William Nassau, Thomas Bradford, junr., George W. McClellan, Edward Loomis, and Alexander Henry, elders.

Presbytery of New Castle—The Rev. John E. Latta, Rev. William Kerr, Rev. Stephen Boyer, and Rev. Joseph Copes. Messrs. Robert Hunter, John P. Duffield, James Ralston, and James Anderson, elders.

Presbytery of Carlisle—The Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D., Rev. Henry R. Wilson, Rev. John Moody, and Rev. George Duffield.

Presbytery of Baltimore—The Rev. Thomas C. S. Earle, Rev. Thomas B. Balch, and Rev. Elias Harrison. Mr. James Irvin, elder.

Presbytery of Northumberland—The Rev. John B. Patterson, and Rev. Asa Dunham. Mr. Abraham McKinney, elder.

Presbytery of Huntingdon—The Rev. James Galbreath.

Presbytery of Redstone—The Rev. William Spear, and Rev. Thomas Hunt.

Presbytery of Lancaster—The Rev. John Wright.

Presbytery of Richland—The Rev. George Vanneman.

Presbytery of Grand River—The Rev. Joseph Treat.

Presbytery of Ohio—The Rev. Matthew Brown, Rev. Joseph Anderson, and Rev. Lyman Potter.

Presbytery of Hanover—The Rev. James K. Burch, Rev. Joseph D. Logan, and Rev. John D. Paxton. Mr. George W. Camp, elder.

Presbytery of Lexington—The Rev. George A. Baxter, D. D., and Rev. Conrad Speece.

Presbytery of Washington—The Rev. James H. Dickey.

Presbytery of West Lexington—The Rev. John T. Edgar.

Presbytery of Orange—The Rev. James Morrison.

Presbytery of Fayetteville—The Rev. Colin McIver.

Presbytery of Concord—The Rev. John Robinson.

Presbytery of Transylvania—The Rev. Nathan H. Hall.

Presbytery of Miami—The Rev. Dyer Burgess, Rev. John Thompson, and Rev. William Gray.

The following delegates from the several Associations connected with this Assembly also attended, and having produced certificates of their appointment, they took their seats as members, viz:

Of the General Association of Connecticut—Rev. Erastus Ripley, and Nathaniel W. Taylor.

Of the General Association of Massachusetts proper—Rev. Richard S. Storrs, jun., and Joseph Field.

Of the General Association of New Hampshire—Rev. Josiah Webster.

Of the General Convention of Vermont—Rev. John Griswold.

The Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, and Temporary Clerk; and the Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, D. D., was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D., Temporary Clerk.

The minutes of the last Assembly were read.

Dr. Coe, Rev. Messrs. George Duffield, Ripley, Copes, Hall, Speece, Spear, and McIver, and Messrs. Nelson, Nassau, and Dr. Rodgers, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this Church, at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

*Resolved*, That a free conversation on the state of religion be the order of the day for Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this Church in special prayer, and other religious exercises; and that Messrs. Chester, Freeman, and Searle, be a committee to make arrangements for the evening, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

The Rev. Nathaniel S. Prime, the delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Convention of Vermont, and the General Association of New Hampshire, reported that he had attended agreeably to his appointment. Dr. Coe informed the Assembly that Mr. Prime relinquishes, for the use of the Board of Missions, one half of the pecuniary allowance made him for his attendance.

One of the delegates from Connecticut presented to the Assembly a number of copies of the printed extracts from the minutes of the General Association of Connecticut of the last two years.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the extracts of each year be forwarded to the several Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly by the agent appointed to forward the printed extracts from the minutes of the Assembly.

The receiving of the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, and of the reports of the several Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Charles Wallace, and Mr. John McKissick, ruling elder, commissioners from the Presbytery of New Castle; the Rev. Thomas Picton, commissioner from the Presbytery of Jersey; the Rev. James Linn, commissioner from the Presbytery of Huntingdon; and Mr. Abraham Shaffer, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Newton, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

Mr. Dunham resigned his seat to the Rev. John H. Grier, the principal mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Grier took his seat as a member.

A number of printed extracts from the minutes of the General Association of Massachusetts proper were received.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these extracts be forwarded to the several Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly, by the agent appointed to forward the printed extracts from the minutes of the Assembly.

The Rev. James Black, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Winchester appeared in the Assembly, and having no regular commission, but satisfactory testimony being given that he had been duly appointed, Mr. Black was received as a member, and accordingly took his seat.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the Synodical and Presbyterial reports were received, and committed to Messrs. Younglove and Searle, who were directed to examine them, and read to the Assembly those parts which they may think necessary to be read, and prepare a statement to be transcribed into the Compendious View.

It being also the order of the day for this morning, the reports of the Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, were received, and Messrs. Chester and McClelland were appointed a committee to prepare a statement, exhibiting a general view of the reports received, and the decisions of the Assembly upon them severally.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of Connecticut, reported that they had attended agreeably to their appointment.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Grant, John Johnson, and Dr. J. R. B. Rodgers, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva.

That Dr. Ely, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Beatty, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

That Mr. Freeman, Mr. Boggs, and Mr. McKissick, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

That Dr. Green, Dr. Romeyn, and Mr. Havens, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

That Dr. Fitch, Mr. Woodruff, and Mr. Platt, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

That Mr. Brown, Mr. Blatchford, and Mr. Ebenezer Coe, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

That Mr. Lansing, Mr. Howe, and Mr. Nelson, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

That Mr. Galpin, Mr. Moody, and Mr. Bradford, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio.

That Mr. Paxton, Mr. Copes, and Mr. Semple, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Tennessee.

That Mr. Speece, Dr. Baxter, and Mr. John P. Duffield, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina.

That Mr. Boggs, Mr. Treat, and Mr. Shaffer, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia.

The Presbyteries which were found by the last Assembly not to have attended to the recommendations of a former Assembly, relative to the circulation of copies of the Confession of Faith, were called upon to state their attention to the subject, and it appeared that the following Presbyteries, in addition to those mentioned last year, had attended to it, viz: Albany, Hudson, Carlisle, Miami, Concord, Transylvania, and West Lexington.

Messrs. Picton and John P. Duffield were appointed a committee to receive an account of the miles travelled by the several members of the Assembly, and to prepare a statement of the distribution of the Commissioners' Fund proper to be made, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. William C. Walton, and Mr. John C. Vowell, commissioners from the Presbytery of Winchester, the Rev. Obadiah Jennings, commissioner from the Presbytery of Ohio, Mr. Chester Bulkley, ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of Albany, and Mr. Simon Sayre, ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of Columbia, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and Drs. Janeway and Ely, and Mr. Potts, were appointed a committee to select the extracts from the minutes of this Assembly proper to be printed.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to dispose of interest due on moneys in the hands of the Trustees of Princeton College, reported that they had met with a committee of said Trustees, and agreed to appropriate said interest, amounting to thirty-three dollars eighty-one cents, to the use of a student in college having in view the gospel ministry.

The Rev. William C. Schenck and Rev. Samuel B. How were appointed a committee to dispose of the interest of the aforesaid moneys for the current year.

Nominations were made for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, and the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, That the reading of the papers of the Rev. George Bourne, which had been brought in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and of the records of the Presbytery of Lexington, relative to him, be made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

Dr. Janeway stated that he had procured the binding of one hundred copies of the third volume of the printed extracts; and would have had as many of the second volume bound, but he found a deficiency of the extracts of several years; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the several Presbyteries be requested, and they hereby are requested to forward to the Stated Clerk, as soon as practicable, all the spare copies in their possession of the printed extracts of the year 1804, in order that the aforesaid number of copies of the second volume may be bound; copies for the years 1795, '96, and '97, are much wanted, and earnestly requested also.

*Resolved*, That each of the Synods and of the Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly be furnished with a copy of the third volume of the printed extracts; and Mr. Thomas Bradford was appointed to receive the copies and make a distribution of them accordingly.

Dr. Janeway informed the Assembly that the Rev. Colin McIver had made an index to the third volume of the printed extracts.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Assembly be presented to Mr. McIver, for making this valuable and useful addition to the book.

The several Presbyteries were called upon to state what attention they had paid to the recommendation of the last Assembly relative to the address and plan of the Board of Missions; and Messrs. Searle and David M. Smith were appointed a committee to attend to the inquiry, and report the result of it to the Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Jehiel Talmage, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Newton; Rev. Ira M. Olds, commissioner from the Presbytery of Onondaga; Mr. Lewis Mills, a commissioner from the Presbytery of New Jersey; and Mr. William Rhea, ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of Ohio appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

It being the order of the day for this morning, an election was held for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, and the following persons were duly chosen to attend, viz: The Rev. William Neill, D. D., the Rev. Leveret J. F. Huntington, and the Rev. David M. Smith. Mr. Smith was appointed alternate to either of these delegates who may fail to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut; and

The Rev. William Neill, D. D., and the Rev. Leveret J. F. Huntington, to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Massachusetts proper. Also,

The Rev. James Patterson to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire; and also to attend the next meeting of the General Convention of Vermont, and that the Rev. Dirck C. Lansing to be his alternate.

Mr. Searle and Mr. William Latta were appointed to supply the pulpit of Dr. Neill, each one Sabbath. Dr. Green was appointed a committee to supply the pulpit of Mr. Huntington, and the Moderator a committee to supply the pulpit of Mr. Patterson.

The committee appointed to report to the Assembly the result of the inquiry made of the Presbyteries relative to the recommendation of the last Assembly on the subject of the address and plan of the Board of Missions, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That from the inquiry it appeared that the Presbyteries had in general paid a laudable attention to the subject; and the Assembly hope that they will persevere in the important business till it is completed."

It being the order of the day for this morning, the papers in Mr. Bourne's case were read, and the hearing of the parties was made the order of the day for next Tuesday morning.

Mr. Bourne requested that the papers be loaned to him for his perusal till Tuesday morning, and his request was granted.

The following overture was submitted to the Assembly, and being amended, was adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That Drs. Janeway, Neill, and Ely, be appointed a committee, and they are hereby appointed, to extract from the records of the General Assembly, and of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, all such matters as may appear to be of permanent authority and interest, (including a short account of the manner in which missions have been conducted, and their success,) that the same may be published for the information of ministers and people in our churches, and that they report the same to the next Assembly.

*Resolved*, That said committee be authorized, and they are hereby authorized, to employ a person to transcribe any part of the records that may be necessary for the above work.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, and after some discussion of the subject, the further consideration of the report was postponed till Thursday next.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported, and the book was approved to page 25.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky, reported that the book had not been forwarded, and that it was not expected that it would be forwarded this year.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock on next Monday. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Aaron W. Leland, D. D., commissioner from the Presbytery of Harmony, Mr. Samuel Bayard, ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, Mr. James Weatherby, ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of Orange, Mr. Robert Worthington, ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of Winchester, and Mr. Henry Brewster, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Ontario, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

A number of printed extracts from the minutes of the General Association of New Hampshire were received.

*Resolved*, That one copy of these extracts be forwarded to each of the Presbyteries, by the agent appointed to forward the printed extracts from the minutes of the Assembly.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to receive communications on the subject of the state of religion, and Drs. Green, and Romeyn, and Messrs. Storrs, Picton, and McClelland, were appointed a committee to prepare a connected narrative of the information which may be received on the subject, and lay it before the Assembly.

Adjourned till half-after 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past 4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Amzi Armstrong, commissioner from the Presbytery of Jersey, Rev. Samuel P. Robbins, commissioner from the Presbytery of Lancaster, and Mr. William Baird, ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of Northumberland, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

An overture from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, on the subject of forming associations for the suppression of vice and immorality, was submitted to the Assembly, and being read, was committed to Messrs. Boggs, Birch, and McIver.

The Board of Missions appeared in the Assembly, and made considerable progress in reading their first report.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Eli F. Cooley, commissioner from the Presbytery of Oneida, and the Rev. John Witherspoon, commissioner from the Presbytery of Orange, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. John Chester, for the missionary sermon which by their appointment he preached last evening.

*Resolved*, That the hearing of the reports of the agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations to the Theological Seminary, be the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

The Board of Missions finished the reading of their first report, and it was committed to Messrs. Speece, Freeman, and Woods, who were directed to report to the Assembly the several particulars contained in the report which require the attention of the Assembly, and to prepare, if they think it expedient, the draught of a letter to the churches as recommended by the Board, and to submit it to the Assembly.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to the trial of Mr. Bourne's appeal from a decision of the Presbytery of Lexington, by which Mr. Bourne was deposed from the gospel ministry.

Mr. Bourne returned the papers which had been loaned him till this morning.

The following resolution was submitted to the Assembly, viz:

*Resolved*, As a point of order, that a judicatory of this church, for contemptuous treatment, may immediately pass such censure as they deem meet.

After some discussion of this resolution, the farther consideration of it was indefinitely postponed.

The following resolution was submitted, and after some discussion, was adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, As the order of proceeding in the pending case, that Mr. Bourne be first heard in support of his appeal; that the Presbytery of Lexington then be heard in reply, and that when the parties are fully heard, (Mr. Bourne being last heard,) they withdraw, and the Assembly proceed to discuss and decide on the subject.

After Mr. Bourne had made considerable progress in supporting his appeal, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

William B. Noyes, ruling elder, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Mississippi, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Bourne resumed and finished his first speech in support of his appeal.

The commissioners from the Presbytery of Lexington commenced the defence of their decision, and after they had made some progress, the Assembly adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 27*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Belville resigned his seat to the Rev. Alexander Boyd, the alternate mentioned in their commission; Mr. Ralston resigned his seat to Mr. Matthew Stanley, the alternate mentioned in their commission; and Mr. Boyd and Mr. Stanley took their seats as members.

Mr. Peter Thompson, ruling elder, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Newton, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, reported, and their reports were committed to Messrs. Grant and Bayard, who were directed to prepare a statement of the results of their agency, and report it to the Assembly. This committee was also instructed to ascertain from the

Treasurer the amount received from dollar societies, and from collections taken up in congregations, and report it to this Assembly.

An inquiry was made of the Presbyteries what order had been taken relative to the recommendation of the last Assembly, on the subject of taking up collections in the several congregations for the Theological Seminary, and the result of the inquiry was referred to the same committee to which the report of the agents had been referred.

The business left unfinished yesterday was resumed, and the parties were heard till they said they had nothing farther to add.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. David D. Salmon, ruling elder, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Fayetteville, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina, reported that they had not been forwarded, and that it was not expected that they would be forwarded to this Assembly.

The committee appointed to prepare a connected narrative of the information received of the state of religion, brought in their report, and after it was read, and several alterations were suggested, it was recommitted to the same committee, to be amended, and again submitted to the Assembly.

The business left unfinished in the morning was resumed, and the following resolution was submitted, viz:

*Resolved*, That the appeal of Mr. Bourne be dismissed, and that the decision of the Presbytery of Lexington, declaring him deposed from the gospel ministry, be and it is hereby confirmed.

A motion was made and seconded, that the consideration of the foregoing resolution be postponed, with a view to introduce a substitute. This motion was lost.

After some discussion of the above resolution, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 28*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer

The minutes of the last session were read.

The religious exercises appointed for last evening were attended to, and the audience was large, attentive, and solemn.

The connected narrative of the state of religion was brought into the Assembly, and after several alterations had been suggested, it was committed to the same committee to be printed. It is as follows:

"The history of the Church of God contains a record of adverse, as well as prosperous events. Her members being sanctified only in part, at no time fully display that purity of conversation and conduct which becometh their profession, and too often afford cause of triumph to the adversaries on account of their carelessness or failures in duty. In the periods of her highest elevation, there is just reason to lament that there are many things to be found within her borders which are against her. Of these she is bound to take particular notice, as well as of the evidences of her Lord's presence and blessing. Thus doing, she is not only reminded 'that she has not already attained, or is not already perfect,' but also constrained 'to follow after, if that she may apprehend that for which also she is apprehended of Christ.'

The General Assembly, conscious of their duty in this respect, and trusting to the divine blessing for success in its performance, desire to give to that part of the Church committed to their superintendence, a faithful narrative of the causes of sorrow during the past year, as well as of those of rejoicing. They begin with the former, which may be summed up under the following heads:

1. Erroneous principles on the subject of revealed religion. If there is a religion revealed by God, it is as important to have correct views of its principles to perform the duties which it enjoins in the various relations of life, as it is to have correct views of morality that our lives may be moral. Error in principle invariably produces error in practice. To be ever learning and never coming to the knowledge of the truth, is characteristic of none but those who assume for the human understanding the prerogative of sitting in judgment upon the inspired truth of God, either condemning the whole as an imposition, or undertaking to correct its alleged mistakes by abridging and falsifying its contents. Of the former class, we rejoice that the number and influence are diminished. Not many years past, they triumphed, to the regret and anguish of the followers of Christ. With brazen front, infidelity threatened the annihilation of the Church, and the ruin of her Lord's authority. But the Church not merely survives its attacks; she has increased in numbers and in grace, whilst her adversaries are compelled, though unwillingly, to pay homage to the paramount claims of her God and her Saviour, who is King of kings, and Lord of lords. Few are to be found, who respect themselves, openly opposing the truth of God as contained in the Scriptures. There are however some within our bounds, who, whilst they profess to honour the authority of the Bible, with unhallowed hands would cut out of its pages those passages which command us to honour the Son as we honour the Father, and rob the trembling sinner of the only hope of acceptance with God which his soul can cherish. The well beloved and only begotten Son of God they reduce to the level of frail humanity, and his work of redemption to the mere fact of furnishing us a perfect example of conversation and conduct. By denying his character as a covenant-surety to bear our sins and carry our sorrows, they lower his example as a righteous and holy man below that which his apostles and primitive followers afford us. And so far as we have had the opportunity of judging from facts, which have fallen under our observation, their principles have introduced among all who have embraced them, so great a conformity in their practice, to the world which lieth in wickedness, as to render it impossible to discriminate them from the children of that world.

In connection with these Anti-Trinitarians, for we reject the name which they have assumed of Unitarians, holding the unity of God as strictly as they do; are the Universalists, or the supporters of the doctrine of universal salvation. It is a tribute however which we owe to truth, to say, that whilst the Anti-Trinitarians, for the sake of consistency, are compelled to maintain the ultimate and eternal salvation of all, the Universalists believe in the doctrine of the Trinity, and the atonement of the Lord Jesus. They, however, by assuring all that they will be in the end for ever happy, provide for the gratification of present desires and continuance in sin, whilst they live.

As these errors in principle do exist in some portion of our Church, though we have good reason to believe that they are not increasing, the Assembly trust that they will be opposed, and their ruinous tendency unfolded, with fidelity and success.

2. Sinful practices. Of these the principal ones reported are intemperance, and profanation of the Lord's day. To us it is a matter not only of regret, but of humiliation, that there should remain cause of complaint and sorrow on account of their prevalence. The first is manifestly so ruinous to

the health of the body, and the participation of temporal advantages, and the last so fearfully destructive of every religious restraint and feeling, as to call for prompt condemnation from the men of the world, as well as the professors of the truth as it is in Jesus. The Lord's day, viewed in a political light entirely, affords so many benefits calculated for the promotion of present enjoyment in all the relations of life, as to claim for it the veneration and homage of sound statesmen. But to men professing respect for the truth of God, it presents claims of higher authority, and we want no stronger evidence of their actual irreligion, than the fact of their profaning that day. As for those who indulge in intemperate habits, we affectionately remind them of their families, as well as themselves, and warn them of the wrath to come. They deliberately prepare themselves for disgrace, as well as disease, unfit themselves for the duties and enjoyments of the life which now is, and must look for the indignation of God, through eternal ages, in the life which is to come. 'Who hath wo? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babblings? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine, they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick, they have beaten me and I felt it not; when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.' The Assembly earnestly recommend to all judicatories, ministers, and members of their communion, to favour and to support all efforts and endeavours to suppress this abominable vice.

3. Failure in duty on the part of professing Christians. Under this head we class lukewarmness, formality, carelessness, and neglect of regular attendance upon the public and private ordinances of worship. They who are chargeable with this failure have the strongest reason for suspecting the sincerity of their profession, and apprehending the reprobation of their Master. To them strictly is appplicable the fearful threatening denounced upon the Laodiceans. 'Because thou art neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm, I will spue thee out of my mouth.' They who are so far influenced by this spirit of lukewarmness, as to forsake the assembling themselves together for the service of God on his own day, and do not offer up to him the morning and evening sacrifices in their families, nor partake of the sacraments of his covenant, particularly neglecting the baptism of their children, subject themselves to the discipline of his house, impair their own spiritual state, and if repentance be not granted, can look for nothing but condemnation from their Judge in the end. To hear that such gross defection in practice had appeared in any of our Presbyteries was as painful in the extreme to our feelings as the fact is disgraceful to the Christian character of those who are thus violating their duty and injuring their own souls, together with the souls of the members of their families. To all these we address the words of Christ, 'Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do thy first works, or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place except thou repent.

The Assembly having unfolded the causes of sorrow, which the past year has produced, proceed to state those which call for thankfulness and rejoicing. These are,

1. The regular and faithful preaching of the gospel, and administration of the ordinances throughout our bounds. We have heard of no instances of negligence on the part of ministers and officers of the Church. They ap-

pear to have discharged their duty, both in the work of teaching and of exercising discipline, in an enlightened, conscientious, and diligent manner. The youth receive stated catechetical instruction, and in some of our Presbyteries particular attention is paid to baptized children.

In addition to this, we mention with particular pleasure the various religious institutions which have been established during the year, or having been established before, are progressing with success in their operations. These are Bible, Missionary, Tract, Sunday-school, moral and praying societies; Bible classes and the Theological Seminary, in Princeton, together with the monthly concert of prayer for the spread of the gospel. Originating in the spirit of true religion, they are sedulously used for its advancement far and wide. Between them there exists no collision of interests, for they have but one object in view, the promotion of human happiness by the power of the truth of God. Bible societies in our day are related to missionary societies, as the gift of tongues was related to the commission of the apostles in the primitive church. We therefore rejoice at the increase of the former, because they furnish to the preachers of the cross sent forth by the latter to every nation, the word of life in their language. The circulation of religious tracts is calculated to awaken attention to and produce inquiry after the way to salvation. In the silence of the closet, in the assemblage of the family, nay in the social circle, they present to the thoughtless and disobedient, subjects deserving their examination, and arresting them for a season in their downward way to ruin. Throughout our bounds religious tract societies as well as Bible and missionary societies have increased. In a large majority of our churches Bible classes have been formed and instruction is dispensed to pupils from the Bible. Praying societies have become more numerous; few if any formerly existing being abandoned, and new ones in different places being formed. The monthly concert for prayer is generally observed, and promises a blessing. Sunday-schools have been established in most of our Presbyteries, and are affording to multitudes the means of instruction for their present and eternal welfare. In these schools, as well as in Bible and missionary societies, we have heard with no ordinary satisfaction, that the female sex have taken an active part in promoting their success. They thus manifest their gratitude to that religion which in Christian lands has elevated them to their proper station, and qualified them for discharging its duties with honour and usefulness. Last, but not the least, we state the flourishing condition of our Theological Seminary at Princeton, which promises to send forth streams continually to made glad the city of our God. More than fifty preachers of the gospel have already gone forth from it, to labour in the Master's vineyard; many of whom are engaged on most important missionary ground.

2. The beneficial results of the efforts of these institutions. They appear in the success of missionary exertions; the increase of our churches; a growing disposition to give liberally of this world's goods for the cause of Christ; amelioration of public morals, and revivals of religion.

1. The missionary field which we occupy is almost as extensive as the boundaries of our country.

For many years past the reports of the missionaries who have laboured under the direction of the General Assembly, have been highly gratifying and encouraging. But in no year hitherto have these reports been so animating to the friends of the Redeemer as in the present. Not only have many new congregations and churches been formed by the labours of our missionaries; not only have those who, on the frontier and in the destitute parts of our country, mourned their silent Sabbaths and their dearth of spiritual refreshment, been cheered by the evangelical messages they have heard, but in several instances revivals of religion of the most important kind and interesting character have followed the faithful preaching, and been fostered by the pious zeal of our missionaries. The demand for their labours is most urgent and importunate, particularly in the western and northern parts of the state of New York, and throughout the western states.

2. During the past year God has been pleased to add largely, not only to the number of our churches, but also to that of our members. In many of the Presbyteries new congregations have been formed. And in those churches which have not been blessed with special revivals, the accessions to the communion in most have been numerous, and in many more than usual. God has not forgotten to be gracious to them, but has accompanied his word and ordinances with power to the salvation of sinners.

Throughout our churches also a spirit of harmony and brotherly love prevails, which we trust will be cherished in all time to come. The existence of such a spirit, where it is not connected with the dereliction of principle, is a decisive evidence of increase in the divine life: 'By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,' said Christ, 'if ye love one another.' We are constrained to add, that a very large portion of Sunday-school teachers in different places, especially in Philadelphia and New York, have had their work blessed to their conversion.

3. We rejoice, as one of the fruits of religious institutions amongst us, in the growing disposition on the part of professors to give liberally of their worldly substance for the promotion of the Redeemer's cause. We are persuaded that where religion is experienced in its power, there wealth will always be considered as granted, with the express provision, that a portion must be devoted to the Lord. They who do not act according to this provision, clearly prove that they love their money more than their God and Saviour.

4. Public morals are decidedly better than they were some time back throughout the church, but particularly in the Presbyteries of Niagara, Onondaga, Bath, Albany, Long Island, Lexington, Transylvania, and the cities of Philadelphia and New York. In these the improvement has been specially observed—though in other Presbyteries and places it is progressing. We feel constrained here to mention, and we do it with pleasure, that in those States where slavery unhappily prevails, the negroes are treated with more attention than heretofore, and increasing exertions are made to promote their comfort and correct their vices, which are the natural result of their state of bondage.

God has been pleased to grant unto several of our congregations a time of refreshing from his presence. The Assembly feel considerable difficulty in selecting from the number of revivals which have occurred, these especially deserving notice; for they are not furnished with statistical information, as it respects the population of the different places. Whilst they desire to mark with peculiar attention all the gracious dealings of God towards our fallen race, they feel it to be their duty to discriminate between those which partake of an ordinary character, and those which are more than ordinary. Inattention to this rule, they are persuaded, is calculated to reduce all God's gracious dealing to a level, which must have a corresponding effect upon the thanks and praises of his people. The Presbyteries which have been blessed with revivals, are Cayuga, Champlain, Columbia, Jersey, West Lexington, and Concord. Of these, the most extensive have occurred in the first, where, out of twenty-six congregations, seventeen have been visited with the outpouring of the Spirit, and nearly six hundred added to the Church on confession. Of these seventeen, the trophies of divine grace have been most numerous in the congregations of Ithaca, Lansing, Aurelius, but chiefly Auburn.

In the Presbytery of Jersey, the congregations of Bloomfield, Connecticut Farms, Newark, Elizabethtown, Orange, and Paterson, are gathering in the fruits of the revival of last year. The congregation of Rockaway, and the Second church in Woodbridge, of this Presbytery; the congregations of De Kalb, Malone, and Russel, in the Presbytery of Champlain; Mount Pleasant, Stoner-Mouth, Paris, Concord, Hemingsburg, and Smyrna, in the Presbytery of West Lexington; Bullock's Creek, Salem, Beersheba, Bethesda, Bethel and Olney, in the Presbytery of Concord; Pittstown, and Bolton, in the Presbytery of Columbia, have been favoured with special revivals. The character of these revivals has been such as to prove them divine. The subjects have conducted themselves with that propriety and decorum which always characterize the work of God; and after obtaining a good hope of acceptance have walked in the ways of the Lord blameless.

The General Assembly feel thankful that they can, without being charged with enthusiasm, say, the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom has advanced throughout their bounds. It is true the number of revivals is not so great as in some former years, but the fruits of these revivals remain in their beauty and usefulness to gladden our hearts. They who have been called into the Church from the world, adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. This we consider as a subject of congratulation and praise; for it is an indubitable truth, that on the consistent deportment of professors of religion, under the divine blessing, depends the successful recommendation of its claims to the world. 'Let your light,' such is Christ's command, 'so shine before men, that they seeing your good works, may glorify your Father who is in heaven.' We therefore exhort you, brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, that you walk worthy of your high vocation. Whilst you earnestly and perseveringly seek for the salvation of sinners, do not neglect your own growth in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. The age in which we live is correctly denominated the age of action. So numerous are the associations for promoting the cause of truth, and so assiduous are the exertions of its friends to insure success, that more than ordinary diligence is necessary to take heed to ourselves. There is a splendor which this universal and increasing action in the Church reflects upon individual character, that may so far dazzle the spiritual perception, and taint the spiritual taste, as to give the adversary a real advantage over those very persons who are attacking his kingdom, and circumscribing his power. Be much engaged in your closets, examining the state of your own hearts, and the nature of your motives. Do still more for God in the world than you ever have done, but connect with this an increasing attention to your personal sanctification. Forget not that it is indispensably requisite for you to cultivate purity of intellect, as well as purity of affection. No attention to the latter will or can compensate for neglect of the former. Such neglect has, in too many instances already in different parts, caused a conformity of conduct to the maxims of the world. It is not sufficient for the professed believer to keep within the established rules of conducting social business, or the statute laws of the land; he must in spirit and deportment, do unto others as he would wish to be done to himself under similar circumstances. His morality must be Christian morality, the legitimate fruit of his actual union with Him who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens. Remember, that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost; for he that in these things serveth Christ, is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

In the bounds of the General Associations of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and the General Convention of Vermont, nothing has occurred of special importance since the last report. The churches are reaping the fruits of past revivals, the cause of religion is advancing, error and vice are losing ground. The Theological Seminary in Andover has eighty students, preparing for the work of the ministry. The various institutions which have been established in past years, for the promotion of religion, are prospering. We rejoice in the progress of truth among our congregational brethren, and pray that God may continue to bless them.

In the conclusion, the Assembly adopt the language of the Psalmist, 'Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and amen.'"

Mr. Henry resigned his seat to Mr. John Connelly, and Mr. Howe resigned his seat to the Rev. Isaac V. Brown, and Mr. Connelly and Mr. Brown took their seats as members.

The business left unfinished yesterday was resumed, viz: the trial of Mr. Bourne's appeal from the decision of the Presbytery of Lexington, by which Mr. Bourne was deposed from the gospel ministry, and the following resolution was again brought before the Assembly, and being amended, and fully discussed, was adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That the appeal of Mr. Bourne be dismissed, and that the decision of the Presbytery of Lexington, declaring him deposed from the gospel ministry be, and it is hereby confirmed, on the first, second, third, fifth, and sixth charges.

The vote was taken separately on each of these charges, and was declared in the affirmative.

Adjourned till half-after 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*Half-past* 4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. John Coyle, ruling elder, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Baltimore, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

Mr. Grier resigned his seat to the Rev. Asa Dunham, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Dunham took his seat as a member.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, reported that they had not been forwarded.

Mr. Boggs resigned his seat to the Rev. George S. Woodhull, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Woodhull took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day, the report of the committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, was taken up, and after considerable discussion of the subject, the book was approved to page 90.

The overture on the subject of forming associations for the suppression of vice and immorality, was taken up, and after part of it had been adopted, the further consideration of it was postponed.

The Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary reported, and their report being read, was committed to Messrs. Woodhull, Wood, and Lansing, to report to the Assembly the particular parts which require their attention.

Nominations were made for Directors to fill up the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, and the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow afternoon.

The committee to which was referred the first report of the Board of Missions, reported in part and their report was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, 1. That the Trustees of the Assembly be directed to issue warrants for the payment of the following sums due their missionaries:

To the Rev. Ashbel Parmele, $9.00. Thomas Kennan, 40.00. John Younglove, 57.92. George Calhoun, 120.00. Asahel Stone, 96.33. Andrew Rawson, 80.00. John Davenport, 33.84. Henry Ford, 30.00. William Timlow, 33.42. Stephen Saunders, 41.32. John Gloucester, 160.00. Eliezer S. Barrows, 39.00. Daniel C. Hopkins, 50.75. Charles Webster, 120.00. Phineas Camp, 146.60. James Hughes, 103.00. Alvan Coe, 108.00. William Dickey, 113 75. John F. Crow, 30.00. Thomas Cleland, 33.00. Stephen Bonnell, 13.33. John Witherspoon, 40.00."

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 29th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Beatty obtained leave of absence after this day, during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported; and their report was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, 1. That the sum of five thousand dollars be appropriated for the general purposes of the institution for the ensuing year.

2. That the General Assembly approve of the plan suggested by the Board of Directors for erecting a house for the use of the Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology, and authorize the Directors to use exertions to procure the names of ten or twelve individuals who shall each be responsible for the payment of five hundred dollars for this purpose.

3. That two thousand five hundred dollars of the liberal donation of Mr. Whitehead, of the state of Georgia, be appropriated to establish a scholarship, to be called the "Whitehead Scholarship."

4. That the Board of Directors take measures to procure and have published, in such manner as they shall think best, the names of the donors to the Seminary, and of the charitable institutions that have in any manner contributed to the support of the Seminary.

5. That the following clause be added to the plan of the Seminary at the close of the fifth section of the eighth article, viz: 'and if any congregation, Presbytery, Synod, or Association, shall found a professorship or professorships, a scholarship or scholarships, fund or funds, said professorship or professorships, scholarship or scholarships, fund or funds, shall for ever afterwards be called and known by such name as the body founding them shall give.'

6. That this Assembly renew the recommendation of the last Assembly, that the course of study prescribed by the plan be in every case completed.

7. That the thanks of the General Assembly be presented to the charitable institutions, and individuals, that, during the past year, have aided the Seminary with their contributions and exertions."

A resolution was submitted to the Assembly appropriating two thousand dollars for the purpose of finishing a number of rooms in the edifice of the Theological Seminary, and after some discussion the farther consideration of it was postponed, and Dr. Romeyn and Mr. Wood were appointed a committee to obtain of the Treasurer, at an early period of the present sessions, a full statement of the funds of the Theological Seminary, including all the receipts, and different expenditures, since the establishment of the institution.

Messrs. Cooley, McIver, and Hall, were appointed a committee to report to the Assembly suitable persons to be chosen agents to solicit contributions to the Theological Seminary for the current year.

*Resolved*, That the Directors of the Theological Seminary be charged with preparing and publishing, as soon as they may find it practicable, such statement in regard to the establishment and present state, and circumstances of the Seminary, as shall be calculated to give full and correct information in regard to it, and that they furnish the agents, to be appointed to solicit donations and contributions for the Seminary, with a sufficient number of copies of this statement, and that the Directors also take the most effectual measures in their power to diffuse generally, in the various parts of our country, the information contemplated by this order.

The committee to which was referred the first report of the Board of Missions, submitted to the Assembly the remaining part of their report, which, having been read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, That the Assembly earnestly recommend to the Presbyteries, the churches, and all missionary associations, to persevere in the most zealous and vigorous exertions for increasing the funds appropriated to missions, knowing by experience as well as by faith in God's word, that in this all-important concern their labour of love is not in vain in the Lord. The fields demanding missionary cultivation are rapidly widening before us; heralds of the gospel are furnished for the work in greater numbers than formerly, and every thing promises a rich harvest of souls to be gathered from amongst men into the kingdom of our Redeemer."

The committee to which was referred the overture from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, proposing the adoption of measures to restrain vice in general, and the intemperate use of ardent spirits in particular, reported, and their report being read and amended was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That this Assembly recommend to the ministers and people under their care to use their influence in forming associations for the suppression of vice and the encouragement of good morals.

That it be recommended to the ministers, elders, and deacons of the Presbyterian Church to refrain from offering ardent spirits to those who may visit them at their respective houses, except in extraordinary cases."

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual accounts, as settled and approved by the Committee of the Trustees, which was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

Mr. Noyes and Mr. Witherspoon obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, the election was held for Directors of the Theological Seminary to fill up the Board. The ballots being taken were committed to Messrs. Blatchford, Duffield, and McClelland, to read them, and to report to the Assembly the number of votes given for the several candidates.

The committee to which was referred the second report of the Board of Missions, reported; and their report being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of one hundred and one dollars eighteen cents, to the Rev. James Hall, D. D., for missionary services."

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio, reported, and the book was approved to page 86.

An overture on the subject of fashionable amusements, was taken up and after considerable discussion was committed to Dr. Baxter, and Messrs. Jennings and Searle, who were directed to report on it to the Assembly, stating the directions on the subject contained in the Confession of Faith.

Messrs. Thompson, Baird, and Talmage, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the distribution of the Commissioners' Fund, reported; and their report being read, and found in some instances incorrect, it was recommitted to the same committee.

The following overture was read and adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the Presbyteries that they enjoin it upon their commissioners to the Assembly to be punctual in attending at the commencement of its sessions; as considerable inconveniences are found to result from failure in this respect.

The committee appointed to count the votes taken for Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported, and from their report it appeared that the following persons were elected for three years, viz: Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., Rev. William Neill, D. D., Rev. John McDowell, Rev. James Richards, D. D., Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, D. D., Rev. Ebenezer Grant, ministers; and Messrs. Robert Ralston, John R. B. Rodgers, and Samuel Bayard, elders.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 30*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Bourne requested that the Stated Clerk be directed to furnish him with, or permit him to take, a copy of all the proceedings and documents connected with his appeal from the Lexington Presbytery, and his request was granted.

Messrs. Camp and King obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the overture on the subject of fashionable amusements, reported, and after their report had been read, and the subject of it had been discussed for a considerable time, the farther consideration of it was postponed; and Drs. Baxter and Romeyn, and Mr. Bayard, were appointed to take the papers on the subject, and to draught a pastoral letter to the churches under the care of the Assembly on the subjects contained in the above-mentioned papers, together with the resolutions adopted yesterday on the subject of forming associations for suppressing vice and immorality, and on the use of ardent spirits, and all other matters which the committee may deem proper to be noticed in the letter.

Mr. Ebenezer Coe and Mr. John P. Duffield obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the overture from the Presbytery of Baltimore, reported, and their report being amended, was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

"That as the Presbytery of Winchester have not been apprized of the protest from the Presbytery of Baltimore; and whereas, the Presbytery of Winchester is within the bounds of the Synod of Virginia, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the protest be laid before the Synod of Virginia for their determination."

An overture was brought in and read, containing an appeal of the Presbytery of Onondaga from a decision of the Synod of Geneva, relative to the restoration of a Mr. Shepherd to the gospel ministry, who had been deposed by another ecclesiastical body. After the parties had been heard till they were satisfied, and the subject of the appeal had been discussed at some length, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*June 1st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

It was stated to the Assembly that Dr. Rodgers had found it necessary to return home, and that he expected his alternate to take his seat.

Mr. Bulkley obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the nomination of suitable agents to solicit contributions to the Theological Seminary, reported; and their report being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, 1. That the interests of the institution demand prompt and efficient measures to obtain funds for the completion of the building, and other objects relative to the interests of the Seminary.

2. That the Assembly appoint one or more agents for the ensuing year, whose duty it shall be to solicit donations, and form societies to aid the funds of the institution, and that Drs. Green, Alexander, and Miller, be a committee to obtain such agent or agents, if practicable, as shall be qualified to carry into effect the object contemplated by the Assembly, and that said committee be invested with discretionary powers as to the place or places where the agent or agents shall be employed; also the said committee be authorized to pay the agent or agents a reasonable compensation for their services from the unappropriated funds of the Theological Seminary.

3. That the following persons be appointed agents to solicit contributions, viz:

In the Presbytery of Champlain, Rev. Ashbel Parmele. Geneva, Cayuga, and Onondaga, Rev. John Smith, and Rev. Comfort Williams. Oneida, Rev. John Chester. Albany, Rev. Benjamin F. Stanton. Columbia, Rev. Nathaniel S. Prime. Londonderry, Rev. Daniel Dana, D. D. Long Island, Rev. Samuel Robinson. Hudson, Rev. John Johnson, and Rev. Ezra Fisk. New York, Rev. Henry R. Weed, and Rev. Alexander McClelland. New Brunswick, Rev. Leveret I. F. Huntington. Newton, Rev. John F. Clark. Philadelphia, Rev. Eliphalet W. Gilbert, and Rev. William Neill, D. D. New Castle, Rev. John E. Latta. Huntingdon, Rev. James Galbraith. Carlisle, Rev. George Duffield, and Rev. Stephen Boyer. Baltimore, Rev. Thomas B. Balch, and Mr. John Coyle. Red Stone, and Grand River, Rev. William Spear. Ohio, Rev. Matthew Brown, and Mr. McCurdy. Hartford, Rev. Thomas E. Hughes. Erie, Rev. Samuel Tait. Washington, Rev. James Hoge. Lancaster, Rev. James Culbertson. Miami, Rev. Joshua L. Wilson. Northumberland, Mr. Dunham. West Tennessee, South Carolina, and Orange, Rev. James Hall, D. D. Fayetteville, Rev. Colin McIver. Harmony, Rev. Thomas Gouldin. Concord, Rev. James Hall, D. D. Hopewell, Rev. John Brown, D. D. St. Lawrence, Rev. Samuel F. Snowden. Bath, Mr. David Higgins. Richland, Rev. James Scott. Mississippi, Rev. Sylvester Larned. Tennessee, Rev. Gideon Blackburn. Abingdon, Rev. Stephen Bovell. Louisville, Transylvania, Muhlenberg, and West Tennessee, Rev. John T. Edgar, and Rev. Nathan H. Hall. State of North Carolina. Rev. John Witherspoon, and Rev. William McDowell.

Mr. Loomis resigned his seat to Mr. Thomas Latimer, the alternate mentioned in their commission; and Mr. Latimer took his seat as a member.

An overture from the Synod of Geneva, requesting the advice of the General Assembly relative to the establishment of an Academical and Theological Seminary, which the Synod proposes instituting within their bounds, was brought in and read. After the subject had been discussed for some time the following resolution was adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Assembly are not prepared at present to give any opinion or advice on the subject of the overture from the Synod of Geneva, which contemplates the establishment of an Academical and Theological Seminary, believing the said Synods are the best judges of what may be their duty in this important business.

The business left unfinished on Saturday was resumed, viz: the appeal of the Presbytery of Onondaga, from a decision of the Synod of Geneva, relative to the restoration of the Rev. John Shepherd to the gospel ministry, who had been deposed by the Association of Fairfield, Connecticut. After considerable discussion of the subject, the following resolutions were adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That the decision of the Synod of Geneva relative to the restoration of the Rev. John Shepherd to the office of the gospel ministry, so far as it censures the restoration of said Shepherd, who was deposed by a judicatory of the Church of Christ in fellowship with us, be and hereby is confirmed; because it did not appear from the records of the Presbytery of Onondaga, that said restoration took place in consequence of any confession of the alleged crime for which the said Shepherd was deposed, or of any profession of penitence for it, or of any conference with the judicatory which deposed him.

2. That the appeal of the Presbytery of Onondaga, so far as it relates to the rescinding of their vote to restore the Rev. John Shepherd, be and hereby is sustained, on the second reason of appeal, and upon that alone; because the Assembly judges, that a minister of the gospel, when once restored by Presbyterial authority, cannot be deprived of his office, except it be by a new process and conviction.

The following resolution was proposed and adopted, viz:

Whereas considerable difficulties and delays have been occasioned by members entitled to milage neglecting to give their names and distance to the Committee on the Commissioners' Fund, or giving them verbally, or some giving double and some the single distance; Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the members entitled to milage shall give to the Committee on the Commissioners' Fund, within three days after the appointment of said committee, in writing, their names, the names of their Presbyteries, and their distance from home to the Assembly; and if any member neglects to comply with this resolution, he shall forfeit his portion of said fund, and that no member may be ignorant of this resolution, the Moderator shall read it as soon as the committee on said fund is appointed each year.

The committee appointed to make a distribution of the Commissioners' Fund, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That there is due to the commissioners $1948.40, allowing them four cents per mile to defray their travelling expenses."

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the foregoing sum to the several commissioners as specified in the report of the committee.

Dr. Green made a communication to the Assembly in relation to the Widows' Fund, and it was

*Resolved*, That the communication be printed in the appendix to the printed extracts from the minutes of this Assembly.

An overture on the subject of certain marriages said to be contrary to the Constitution of the Church, was brought in, and after it was read, and some discussion had on the subject, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The business left unfinished in the morning, viz: the discussion of the overture on the subject of certain marriages, was resumed, and after some discussion, it was committed to the same committee to which was referred the question proposed to the last Assembly, viz: "Can a man, consistently with the rule of moral duty contained in the word of God, marry his brother's widow?"

The following resolution was submitted to the Assembly, viz:

*Resolved*, That a person who shall sell as a slave a member of the Church, who shall be at the time of sale in good standing in the Church, and unwilling to be sold, acts inconsistently with the spirit of Christianity, and ought to be debarred from the communion of the Church.

After considerable discussion, the subject was committed to Dr. Green, Dr. Baxter, and Mr. Burgess, to prepare a report to be adopted by the Assembly, embracing the object of the above resolution, and also expressing the opinion of the Assembly in general as to slavery.

*Resolved*, That no election be held this year for Trustees of the Assembly.

Messrs. Thompson, Walton, Robins, and Stone, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The draught of a pastoral letter was read, and after considerable discussion, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*June 2d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Messrs. Robinson and James H. Mills obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly, after this morning.

*Resolved*, That the records of the Synod of Virginia be approved, except their censure of the Presbytery of Lexington for allowing an appeal from their decision directly to the Assembly, without noticing the supposed irregularity of such appeal.

The book of the Synod of Virginia, with the above exception, was approved to page 198.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue warrants for the payment of $36.50 to the Rev. James Johnson, and of $—— to the Rev. Joseph Stephenson, for missionary services.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva, reported, and the book was approved to page 125, except that part in which the Synod ordered the Presbytery of Onondaga to rescind their votes relative to the restoration of Rev. John Shepherd to the gospel ministry.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to review the forms of process, and to report to the Assembly such alterations and additions as the committee may consider necessary, reported that they had made some progress in the business.

It having been stated to the Assembly that the Trustees had made a contract for publishing a new edition of the Confession of Faith, the following resolution was submitted to the Assembly and adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be requested to suspend the publication of a new edition of the Confession of Faith, until the contemplated alterations of the book of Discipline shall have been effected.

The consideration of the Pastoral Letter was resumed, and after considerable discussion, and some amendments, it was committed to the committee which had made the draught, to prepare it for the press, and to have it printed.

*Resolved,* That fifteen hundred copies of this letter be printed.

It is as follows:

### *A Pastoral Letter from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to the churches under their care.*

*Dear Brethren*—The time in which we address you is very important and interesting. The free conversation on the state of religion has exhibited abundant evidence that the churches under our care have never been in a more prosperous condition than during the last year. In the year immediately preceding, perhaps special revivals were more remarkable and more numerous, but as it relates to the general extension of religious influence, the organization of new congregations, and the wide spreading success of missionary labours, the aspect of the Church has probably never been so promising as at the present time; and when in addition to this, we reflect on the various institutions, not only in our connection, but in the Christian world at large, calculated to extend the kingdom of our Redeemer; the zeal and liberality with which those institutions are supported, and the extensively beneficial effects which they are every day producing, we are obliged to consider the present moment as forming an important era in the annals of religion. A general movement of Protestant Christendom has taken place, an unusual blessing has descended on the Church of Christ, and we are probably approaching some day of the Son of Man of no usual and ordinary character. The present, therefore, is no doubt a favourable time, not only for extending the influence, but for advancing the purity of the Church, for the extirpation of any errors, and the abolition of any unchristian practices which may have found entrance among us during the long period of comparative darkness and desertion through which we have passed. And although we do not believe that any thing immoral or vicious is more prevalent now than at former periods, or even as much so, yet the existence of such things at the present time, strikes the minds of serious Christians with an appearance of greater deformity, and fills them with more pungent regret as it is exhibited in such dark contrast with that promising and wonderful aspect of things so extensively displayed by the Christian world. The free conversation on the state of religion has brought some such things to our view, against which we feel constrained to bear our decided testimony, and we would enter upon this duty with the tenderness and meekness, but at the same time with the firmness and authority which becomes a judicatory of the Church of Christ.

The first thing we shall mention is the crime of drunkenness. This crime has at all times been a curse to our country, and has often made lamentable inroads upon our Church. We are convinced that it may be opposed more successfully by prevention than in any other way. When the character of drunkenness is fully formed, the unhappy victim is lost to those motives which ordinarily influence all other classes of men. In this state of things nothing but a miracle of divine grace can effect his reformation. The certain and acknowledged prospect of the wreck of his family, his fortune and his character, and even of the ruin of his immortal soul, is not sufficient to arrest his course; and yet perhaps the same man may formerly have been in such a state of equilibrium or indecision upon this subject, that the smallest motives might have prevented the formation of a habit, which in its maturity has become so irresistible. This consideration is certainly sufficient to justify an effort for saving our fellow men from the domination of so destructive a vice. For this purpose we earnestly recommend to the officers and members of our Church to abstain even from the common use of ardent spirits. Such a voluntary privation as this, with its motives publicly avowed will not be without its effect in cautioning our fellow Christians and fellow citizens against the encroachment of intoxication; and we have the more confidence in recommending this course as it has already been tried with success in several sections of our Church.

The vice of gambling has also been forced upon our attention. We indeed hope that few, or perhaps none, of our actual professors, have indulged themselves in the practice of what they consider as coming under the denomination of gambling. But perhaps there are some addicted to this practice who have evinced a predilection for our Church, and forms of worship, and who are not unwilling to receive the word of admonition from us. Such we would earnestly exhort to consider, in the most serious manner, the consequences of the course they are pursuing, and the awful lessons which the experience of the world is every day exhibiting on this subject. But it is our duty further to testify, that all encouragement of lotteries and purchasing of lottery tickets; all attendance on horse-racing, and betting on such, or any other occasions; and all attempts of whatever kind to acquire gain without giving an equivalent, involve the gambling principle, and participate in the guilt which attaches to that vice.

On the fashionable, though, as we believe, dangerous amusements of theatrical exhibitions and dancing, we deem it necessary to make a few observations. The theatre we have always considered as a school of immorality. If any person wishes for honest conviction on this subject, let him attend to the character of that mass of matter which is generally exhibited on the stage. We believe all will agree, that comedies at least, with a few exceptions, are of such a description that a virtuous and modest person cannot attend the representation of them, without the most painful and embarrassing sensations. If indeed custom has familiarized the scene, and these painful sensations are no longer felt, it only proves that the person in question has lost some of the best sensibilities of our nature, that the strongest safeguard of virtue has been taken down, and that the moral character has undergone a serious depreciation.

With respect to dancing, we think it necessary to observe, that however plausible it may appear to some, it is perhaps not the less dangerous on account of that plausibility. It is not from those things which the world acknowledges to be the most wrong, that the greatest danger is to be apprehended to religion, especially as it relates to the young. When the practice is carried to its highest extremes, all admit the consequences to be fatal; and why not then apprehend danger, even from its incipient stages? It is certainly in all its stages a fascinating and infatuating practice. Let it once be introduced, and it is difficult to give it limits. It steals away our precious time, dissipates religious impressions, and hardens the heart. To guard you, beloved brethren, against its wiles and its fascinations, we earnestly recommend that you will consult that sobriety which the sacred pages require. We also trust that you will attend with the meekness and docility becoming the Christian character, to the admonitions on this subject of those whom you have chosen to watch for your souls. And now, beloved brethren, that you may be guarded from the dangers we have pointed out, and from all other dangers which beset the path of life, and obstruct our common salvation, and that the great Head of the Church may have you in his holy keeping, is our sincere and affectionate prayer. Amen.

J. J. Janeway, *Moderator*.

*June*, 1818.

The following persons were chosen and appointed a Board of Missions for the ensuing year:

Of Philadelphia and its vicinity, the Rev. Drs. Green, Alexander, Wilson, Miller, Janeway, and Neill; the Rev. Messrs. Potts, and Skinner, and Messrs. Boudinot, Connelly, Haslet, R. Smith, Ralston, and S. Bayard.

Of New York, the Rev. Dr. Romeyn, and Messrs. Lenox, Rodgers, Bethune, Caldwell, and Lewis.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. D. Higgins.

Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Jonas Coe, D. D

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, Rev. James Richards, D. D.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. R. Cathcart, D. D.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. Elisha Macurdy.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe, D. D.

Of the Synod of Ohio, Rev. Robert G. Wilson.

Of the Synod of North Carolina, Rev. James Hall, D. D.

Of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D.

Of the Synod of Tennessee, Rev. Gideon Blackburn.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly recommend, and they do hereby recommend, to the pastors and sessions of the different churches under their care to assemble as often as they may deem necessary during the year, the baptized children with their parents, to recommend said children to God in prayer, explain to them the nature and obligations of their baptism, and the relation which they sustain to the Church.

The following extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Oneida was overtured, viz:

"Ordered, That our commissioners to the next General Assembly, be instructed to request the Assembly to permit this Presbytery to manage their missionary concerns."

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Oneida be referred to the plan proposed by the Board of Missions.

The committee to which was referred the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, reported, and their report being read, was accepted and the Stated Clerk was directed to transcribe it into the Compendious View, and to annex to the report a note marking the deficiency in the report in not stating the number of congregations that had not reported to the Presbyteries on the particular subjects.

The General Assembly, taking into consideration the great number of delegates that compose their body, and believing that a diminution of the number will contribute to equalize the representation from all our Presbyteries, as well as to facilitate the despatch of business, and lessen the expense incurred by the commissioners, on motion,

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Presbyteries to alter the ratio of representation by substituting in cap. xi., sect. 2, the word *nine*, for the word *six*; and the word, *eighteen*, in place of the word *twelve*.

2. That the Presbyteries be required to send up to the next General Assembly their respective decisions on the question submitted to their consideration in the above resolution.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Tennessee, reported that they had not been forwarded.

The committee to which was referred the resolution on the subject of selling a slave, a member of the Church, and which was directed to prepare a report to be adopted by the Assembly, expressing their opinion in general on the subject of slavery, reported, and their report being read, was unanimously adopted, and referred to the same committee for publication. It is as follows, viz:

"The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, having taken into consideration the subject of slavery, think proper to make known their sentiments upon it to the churches and people under their care.

We consider the voluntary enslaving of one part of the human race by another, as a gross violation of the most precious and sacred rights of human nature; as utterly inconsistent with the law of God, which requires us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and as totally irreconcilable with the spirit and principles of the gospel of Christ, which enjoin that 'all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.' Slavery creates a paradox in the moral system; it exhibits rational, accountable, and immortal beings in such circumstances as scarcely to leave them the power of moral action. It exhibits them as dependent on the will of others, whether they shall receive religious instruction; whether they shall know and worship the true God; whether they shall enjoy the ordinances of the gospel; whether they shall perform the duties and cherish the endearments of husbands and wives, parents and children, neighbours and friends; whether they shall preserve their chastity and purity, or regard the dictates of justice and humanity. Such are some of the consequences of slavery—consequences not imaginary, but which connect themselves with its very existence. The evils to which the slave is always exposed often take place in fact, and in their very worst degree and form; and where all of them do not take place, as we rejoice to say in many instances, through the influence of the principles of humanity and religion on the mind of masters, they do not—still the slave is deprived of his natural right, degraded as a human being, and exposed to the danger of passing into the hands of a master who may inflict upon him all the hardships and injuries which inhumanity and avarice may suggest.

From this view of the consequences resulting from the practice into which Christian people have most inconsistently fallen, of enslaving a portion of their brethren of mankind—for 'God hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth'—it is manifestly the duty of all Christians who enjoy the light of the present day, when the inconsistency of slavery, both with the dictates of humanity and religion, has been demonstrated, and is generally seen and acknowledged, to use their honest, earnest, and unwearied endeavours, to correct the errors of former times, and as speedily as possible to efface this blot on our holy religion, and to obtain the complete abolition of slavery throughout Christendom, and if possible throughout the world.

We rejoice that the Church to which we belong commenced as early as any other in this country, the good work of endeavouring to put an end to slavery, and that in the same work many of its members have ever since been, and now are, among the most active, vigorous, and efficient labourers. We do, indeed, tenderly sympathize with those portions of our church and our country where the evil of slavery has been entailed upon them; where a great, and the most virtuous part of the community abhor slavery, and wish its extermination as sincerely as any others—but where the number of slaves, their ignorance, and their vicious habits generally, render an immediate and universal emancipation inconsistent alike with the safety and happiness of the master and the slave. With those who are thus circumstanced, we repeat that we tenderly sympathize. At the same time, we earnestly exhort them to continue, and if possible to increase their exertions to effect a total abolition of slavery. We exhort them to suffer no greater delay to take place in this most interesting concern, than a regard to the public welfare truly and indispensably demands.

As our country has inflicted a most grievous injury on the unhappy Africans, by bringing them into slavery, we cannot indeed urge that we should add a second injury to the first, by emancipating them in such manner as that they will be likely to destroy themselves or others. But we do think, that our country ought to be governed in this matter by no other consideration than an honest and impartial regard to the happiness of the injured party, uninfluenced by the expense or inconvenience which such a regard may involve. We, therefore, warn all who belong to our denomination of Christians against unduly extending this plea of necessity; against making it a cover for the love and practice of slavery, or a pretence for not using efforts that are lawful and practicable, to extinguish this evil.

And we, at the same time, exhort others to forbear harsh censures, and uncharitable reflections on their brethren, who unhappily live among slaves, whom they cannot immediately set free; but who, at the same time, are really using all their influence, and all their endeavours, to bring them into a state of freedom, as soon as a door for it can be safely opened.

Having thus expressed our views of slavery, and of the duty indispensably incumbent on all Christians to labour for its complete extinction, we proceed to recommend, and we do it with all the earnestness and solemnity which this momentous subject demands, a particular attention to the following points.

We recommend to all our people to patronize and encourage the society lately formed, for colonizing in Africa, the land of their ancestors, the free people of colour in our country. We hope that much good may result from the plans and efforts of this society. And while we exceedingly rejoice to have witnessed its origin and organization among the holders of slaves, as giving an unequivocal pledge of their desires to deliver themselves and their country from the calamity of slavery; we hope that those portions of the American union, whose inhabitants are, by a gracious providence, more favourably circumstanced, will cordially, and liberally, and earnestly cooperate with their brethren, in bringing about the great end contemplated.

We recommend to all the members of our religious denomination, not only to permit, but to facilitate and encourage the instruction of their slaves, in the principles and duties of the Christian religion; by granting them liberty to attend on the preaching of the gospel, when they have opportunity; by favouring the instruction of them in the Sabbath-school, wherever those schools can be formed; and by giving them all other proper advantages for acquiring the knowledge of their duty both to God and to man. We are perfectly satisfied, that it is incumbent on all Christians to communicate religious instruction to those who are under their authority, so that the doing of this in the case before us, so far from operating, as some have apprehended that it might, as an incitement to insubordination and insurrection, would, on the contrary, operate as the most powerful means for the prevention of those evils.

We enjoin it on all church sessions and Presbyteries, under the care of this Assembly, to discountenance, and as far as possible to prevent all cruelty of whatever kind in the treatment of slaves; especially the cruelty of separating husband and wife, parents and children, and that which consists in selling slaves to those who will either themselves deprive these unhappy people of the blessings of the gospel, or who will transport them to places where the gospel is not proclaimed, or where it is forbidden to slaves to attend upon its institutions. And if it shall ever happen that a Christian professor in our communion shall sell a slave who is also in communion and good standing with our Church, contrary to his or her will, and inclination, it ought immediately to claim the particular attention of the proper church judicature; and unless there be such peculiar circumstances attending the case as can but seldom happen, it ought to be followed, without delay, by a suspension of the offender from all the privileges of the church, till he repent, and make all the reparation in his power to the injured party."

*Resolved*, That fifteen hundred copies of this report be printed or published in the newspapers.

The committee appointed to ascertain from the Treasurer the amount of money in his hands, belonging to the funds of the Theological Seminary, and also an account of all the receipts and expenditures since the establishment of the institution, reported: Whereupon

*Resolved*, That the sum of two thousand dollars be, and is hereby appropriated from any unappropriated moneys in the hands of the Treasurer of the contingent fund, for the purpose of completing so much of the edifice as may in the judgment of the Building Committee of the Board of Directors, be necessary for finishing the public rooms, and for the actual accommodation of the students of the Seminary, and otherwise.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, and their report was read. After some discussion, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Zachariah Lewis, the alternate to Dr. Rodgers, appeared in the Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

The consideration of the report of the committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, was resumed, and after considerable discussion, their report being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the minutes of the Synod of Philadelphia be approved to page 10, second volume, except a resolution expressing the opinion of that body on the subject of appeals.

The committee appointed to report to the Assembly the amount of the moneys collected by the agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read, was adopted.

Whereas it appears from some of the reports of committees appointed to examine the Synodical books, that several of the Synods have neglected to send up their records to this Assembly,

*Resolved*, That the said Synods be, and they are hereby enjoined to be careful to send up their records to the next General Assembly.

The first annual report of the United Foreign Missionary Society was laid on the table, together with their address to the three denominations united in their society; and the following amendments to the constitution of said society, were approved by the Assembly, viz:

1. That the third article be so altered as to make the whole number of managers eighteen, instead of twelve, exclusive of the officers.

2. That to the fifth article be added the following clause, viz: 'And any person presenting to the society a donation of not less that one hundred dollars, shall be a director for life, and entitled to a seat and vote in the Board of Managers.'

3. That an article be added after the fifth of the original instrument, to read thus: 'The President, Treasurer, and Secretary, of any society auxiliary to this, shall be, *ex officio*, members of the Board of Managers.'

4. That the Board of Managers be authorized to fill any vacancies that may occur in the Board.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly do approve the important objects contemplated by the United Foreign Missionary Society, and recommend the said society to the attention of the several Presbyteries.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk be directed to have printed on letter paper two hundred copies of the resolutions respecting the proposed alteration in the ratio of representation, and to send them by mail to ministers belonging to the different Presbyteries, to secure seasonable information respecting this important overture.

The committee appointed to take an account of what the Presbyteries had done severally in providing for the education of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

The committee on the subject of the education of poor and pious youth, report that the following Presbyteries have on this subject complied with the order of the Assembly, viz: Niagara, Cayuga, Geneva, Onondaga, Ontario, Oneida, Columbia, Albany, Hudson, New York, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Newton, Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, Northumberland, Redstone, Richland, Lancaster, Grand River, Ohio, Winchester, Hanover, Lexington, Washington, Orange, Fayetteville, Transylvania, and Miami.

The following Presbyteries were excused, viz: Baltimore, Huntingdon, and West Lexington.

The Presbytery of Concord has failed in its duty.

Number of poor and pious youth on the funds of Presbyteries:

Presbytery of Albany, 10. Columbia, 3. New Castle, 1. Oneida, 1. Jersey, 3. Philadelphia, 4. Long Island, 4. Carlisle, 1. Lancaster, 3. Grand River, 2. Washington, 1. Orange, 2. Hanover, 7. Winchester, 3. Newton, 1. Geneva, 1. Hudson, 1. Ontario, 3. New York, 1. Cayuga, 4. Total, 56.

*Resolved*, That the copies of the index to the third volume of printed extracts that are on hand, be sent with the printed extracts of this year to the several Presbyteries.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of two hundred and seventy-five dollars to the Rev. Asa Dunham, as a compensation for his services rendered as agent for soliciting donations for the Theological Seminary.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk for his services rendered the Assembly, agreeably to the rate fixed by a former Assembly, and for the stationery furnished for their use.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of twenty-four dollars to Joseph Jacobs for twelve days' attendance upon the Assembly.

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain whether any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was agreed to report none to the Presbyteries as delinquents in this respect.

*Resolved*, That this Assembly be dissolved, and that another Assembly be required to meet in the Second Presbyterian Church, in this city, on the third Thursday in May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Moderator accordingly dissolved the Assembly, agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution.

Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1818.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Niagara, | 10 | 1 | 16 | 306 | $ 22 |
| Ontario, | 19 | 2 | 16 | 694 | 54 |
| Bath, | 6 | — | 10 | 341 | 33 |
| Geneva, | 15 | 2 | 21 | 1366 | 43 |
| Cayuga, | 15 | 1 | 26 | 1537 | 121 |
| Onondaga, | 21 | 2 | 27 | 1848 | 236 |
| Albany, | 15 | 2 | 20 | 1589 | 312 |
| Columbia, | 13 | 3 | 22 | 889 | 361 |
| Oneida, | 16 | — | 17 | 1121 | 315 |
| Londonderry, | 16 | 4 | 13 | 751 | 89 |
| Champlain, | 9 | — | 15 | 122 | 14 |
| St Lawrence, | 9 | — | 2 | — | — |
| Long Island, | 14 | 2 | 16 | 538 | 137 |
| Hudson, | 25 | 3 | 35 | 2137 | 314 |
| New York, | 16 | 5 | 12 | 2298 | 811 |
| Jersey, | 26 | 4 | 25 | 5118 | 692 |
| New Brunswick, | 17 | 9 | 13 | 1191 | 264 |
| Philadelphia, | 27 | 4 | 35 | 3500 | 891 |
| New Castle, | 26 | 2 | 48 | 1660 | 232 |
| Baltimore. No report. | | | | | |
| Carlisle, | 20 | 2 | 29 | 2266 | 261 |
| Huntingdon, | 10 | — | 29 | 1776 | 71 |
| Northumberland, | 7 | 2 | 15 | 1192 | 55 |
| Ohio, | 27 | 1 | 43 | 3041 | 1138 |
| Redstone, | 16 | — | 23 | 994 | 195 |
| Erie, | 12 | 1 | 41 | 1045 | 52 |
| Hartford, | 10 | — | 21 | 573 | 16 |
| Grand River, | 12 | — | 22 | 599 | 23 |
| Lancaster, | 14 | — | 31 | 867 | 204 |
| Washington, | 9 | 1 | 31 | 1288 | 388 |
| Miami, | 12 | 1 | 30 | 845 | 439 |
| Richland, | 6 | — | 21 | 286 | 27 |
| Transylvania, | 9 | 2 | 16 | 396 | 373 |
| West Lexington, | 11 | 1 | 25 | 679 | — |
| Hanover, | 15 | 5 | 23 | 804 | 3130 |
| Lexington, | 16 | 1 | 30 | 814 | 202 |
| Winchester, | 13 | — | 16 | 612 | 455 |
| Orange, | 10 | 7 | 21 | — | 316 |
| Concord, | 16 | 1 | 58 | 2570 | 44 |
| Fayetteville, | 11 | — | 29 | 1693 | 523 |
| South Carolina, | 12 | 4 | 30 | 843 | — |
| Hopewell, | 6 | — | — | — | — |
| Harmony, | 15 | — | — | — | — |
| West Tennessee, | 7 | 2 | 18 | 726 | 55 |
| Mississippi, | 5 | 1 | 8 | 134 | 165 |
| Shiloh. No report. | | | | | |
| Union, | 8 | 4 | 17 | 774 | 44 |
| Total, | 625 | 82 | 1016 | 52,822 | $13,117 |

# 1819.

PHILADELPHIA, *May 20th*, 1819.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment in the Second Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. Dr. Jacob J. Janeway, the Moderator of last Assembly, with a sermon from 1 Cor. xv. 58 : "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz :

PRESBYTERY OF NIAGARA—The Rev. Calvin Colton.

PRESBYTERY OF ONTARIO—The Rev. Andrew Rowson, and Rev. Abraham Forman.

PRESBYTERY OF ONONDAGA——The Rev. James Sanford. Mr. Samuel Swetland, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ST. LAWRENCE—The Rev. Daniel Banks.

PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA—The Rev. Benjamin B. Stockton, Rev. James G. Ogilvie, and Rev. Dirck C. Lansing.

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. Henry Axtell, and Rev. Stephen Porter. Mr. Hugh McAllister, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF BATH—The Rev. Robert Hubbard.

PRESBYTERY OF CHAMPLAIN—The Rev. Samuel Whelpley.

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. David R. Dixon, Rev. Calvin Bushnell, and Rev. John Frost. Messrs. Thomas Williams, and Samuel Hecox, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Samuel Tomb, and Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D. Messrs. Gilbert Brush, and Adam Edson, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Simon Hosack, D. D., Rev. Reuben Smith, and Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D. Messrs. Nehemiah B. Bassett, and John K. Davis, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDONDERRY—The Rev. Edward L. Parker.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—The Rev. Methuselah Baldwin, Rev. William Blain, Rev. Thomas Grier, and Rev. Charles Cummings. Messrs. David H. Slawson, Benjamin Dunning, and John Barker, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEWTON—The Rev. Jacob Kirkpatrick, and Rev. Jacob R. Castner. Mr. Jacob Race, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Charles Webster, and Rev. Henry R. Weed. Messrs. Zachariah Lewis, and Dr. John R. B. Rodgers, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. John W. Babbit, and Rev. Nathaniel Reeve. Mr. Richard F. Nicoll, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF JERSEY—The Rev. Asa Hillyer, D. D., Rev. James Richards, D. D., Rev. John G. Bergen, Rev. Samuel H. Cox, and Rev. John Ford. Messrs. William Thompson, Matthew Freeman, and Hiram Smith, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., and Rev. George S. Woodhull. Mr. John Muirhead, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, D. D., Rev. Joseph Barr, Rev. George W. Janvier, Rev. Thomas H. Skinner, and Rev. Francis G. Ballentine. Messrs. Alexander Henry, Thomas Woodruff, Thomas Latimer, and Henry Howell, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. Charles Wallace, Rev. Samuel Bell, Rev. James Latta, Rev. William Finney, and Rev. Samuel Park.

Presbytery of Carlisle—The Rev. James Snodgrass, Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D., Rev. Robert Kennedy, and Rev. Robert S. Grier.

Presbytery of Baltimore—The Rev. Thomas L. Birch, Rev. Andrew Hunter, and Rev. Thomas B. Balch. Mr. Elias B. Caldwell, elder.

Presbytery of Northumberland—The Rev. Samuel Henderson.

Presbytery of Huntingdon—The Rev. John Coulter. Mr. Anthony Young, elder.

Presbytery of Redstone—The Rev. Francis Herron, Rev. James Graham, and Rev. William Swan.

Presbytery of Erie—The Rev. John McFerron, and Rev. Samuel Tait.

Presbytery of Portage—The Rev. Alvin Coe.

Presbytery of Lancaster—The Rev. John Wright, and Rev. James Culbertson.

Presbytery of Grand River—The Rev. Amasa Loomis.

Presbytery of Hartford—The Rev. Thomas E. Hughes.

Presbytery of Ohio—The Rev. Moses Allen, Rev. Joseph Stephenson, and Rev. Thomas Marques. Mr. William Rea, elder.

Presbytery of Winchester—The Rev. William Hill, D. D.

Presbytery of Hanover—The Rev. John H. Rice. Mr. George W. Camp, elder.

Presbytery of Lexington—The Rev. James Morrison.

Presbytery of Washington—Mr. Isaac Cook, elder.

Presbytery of West Lexington—The Rev. John R. Moreland.

Presbytery of Fayetteville—The Rev. Jesse H. Turner.

Presbytery of Concord—The Rev. James Hall, D. D.

Presbytery of Union—The Rev. Isaac Anderson.

Presbytery of Abingdon—The Rev. James Gallagher.

Presbytery of Miami—The Rev. Daniel Hayden, and Rev. Peter Monfort. Mr. William King, elder.

Of the General Association of Connecticut—Rev. Noah Porter, and Rev. Bennet Tyler.

Of the General Association of Massachusetts proper—Rev. Joseph Goffe.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a Moderator and Temporary Clerk; and the Rev. John H. Rice was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D., was elected Temporary Clerk.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Messrs. Tomb, Lansing, Woodhull, Kennedy, Graham, Turner, Coe, and Tyler; and Mr. E. B. Caldwell, Dr. Rodgers, and Mr. Woodruff, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in this church, at 6 o'clock to morrow morning, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

*Resolved*, That a free conversation on the state of religion be the order of the day for Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in this church in special prayer, and other religious exercises; and that the Rev. Dr. Blatchford, and Messrs. Woodhull and Skinner, be a committee to make arrangements for the evening, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

Dr. Miller, Messrs. Woodhull, and Caldwell, were appointed a committee to inquire whether any, and if any, what alterations are proper to be made in the rules of the Assembly, and report as soon as convenient on the subject to the Assembly.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock in the Sixth Presbyterian Church in this city. Concluded with prayer.

*May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met in the Sixth Presbyterian Church, and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., commissioner from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and Rev. Thomas Hood, commissioner from the Presbytery of Northumberland, and Rev. Matthew La Rue Perine, commissioner from the Presbytery of New York, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The delegate appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of New Hampshire, and the General Convention of Vermont, reported that he had attended agreeably to his appointment.

A number of copies of the printed extracts of the minutes of the General Association of Connecticut were presented to the Assembly, and it was

*Resolved*, That they be put into the hands of Mr. William Bradford, the agent of the Assembly, to forward a copy to each Presbytery under the care of the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Marques, Snodgrass, and Neill, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva.

That Dr. Hill, Messrs. Turner, and Camp, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

That Dr. Hosack, Messrs. Herron, and Cook, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York.

That Dr. Miller, Messrs. Tomb, and Brush, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

That Dr. Hall, Messrs. Balch, and Young, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

That Drs. Richards, and Blatchford, and Mr. Muirhead, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

That Dr. Hillyer, Messrs. Graham, and S. Swan, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

That Messrs. Lansing, Reeve, and William Swan, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio.

That Messrs. Anderson, Gallaher, and McAllister, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina.

That Messrs. Axtell, Dixon, and Edson, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia. And,

That Messrs. Woodhull, Skinner, and Henry, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Tennessee.

The reports of the Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, being called for, Messrs. Stockton and Porter were appointed a committee to prepare a statement exhibiting a general view of the reports received, and the decisions of the Assembly upon them severally.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and Drs. Janeway, and Ely, and Mr. Potts, were appointed a committee to select the extracts from the minutes of this Assembly proper to be printed.

Messrs. Cox and Lewis were appointed a committee to receive an account of the miles travelled by the several members of the Assembly, and to prepare a statement of the distribution of the Commissioners' Fund proper to be made, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

The committee appointed, by a former Assembly, to revise the forms of process, and to report any amendments which they may think proper to be made, reported, and the consideration of their report was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

The calling for Synodical and Presbyterial reports, was made the order of the day for this afternoon.

Dr. Nott requested permission to leave the Assembly whenever circumstances, which he anticipated, should occur requiring him to withdraw, and his request was granted.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to dispose of interest due on money in the hands of the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, made no report, in consequence, as appeared from information received by the Assembly, of the death of one of the committee. The Assembly were informed that the duty assigned had been performed.

The Rev. Samuel B. How, and Leverett I. F. Huntington, were appointed a committee to dispose of the interest of the aforesaid moneys for the current year.

The following overture was brought in, and being read and amended, was adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Rev. John H. Rice, Drs. Green, Miller, Alexander, and Romeyn, and Rev. Messrs. John B. Hoge, and George S. Woodhull, be a committee to inquire into the expediency of collecting information of the doctrine and discipline and general state of the Protestant churches in Europe, and into the expediency of establishing a communication with the judicatories of said churches, or any of them, and that said committee report thereon to the next General Assembly.

The Presbyteries were called upon to report on the subject of the overture sent down by the last General Assembly, proposing an alteration in the constitution, in the following words:

"1. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Presbyteries to alter the ratio of representation by substituting in cap. xi. sect. 2, the word *nine*, for the word *six*, and the word *eighteen*, in place of the word *twelve*.

2. That the Presbyteries be required to send up to the next General Assembly their respective decisions on the question submitted to their consideration in the above resolution."

Reports on this subject from the following Presbyteries were received in writing, declaring their concurrence in the proposed amendment, viz:

Niagara, Ontario, Onondaga, Cayuga, Geneva, Bath, Columbia, Londonderry, Hudson, Newton, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Oneida, Philadelphia, Northumberland, Huntingdon, Erie, Lancaster, Portage, Grand River, Hartford, Ohio, Winchester, Hanover, Lexington, Washington, Orange, Concord, Transylvania, Harmony, Mississippi, Miami, Fayetteville, and Richland.

Whereupon, the General Assembly did, and hereby do, declare, that the above-mentioned amendment of the Constitution has been duly and constitutionally made.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Asa King, delegate from the General Association of Connecticut; the Rev. Messrs. Samuel B. Wilson, and Wells Andrews, commissioners from the Presbytery of Winchester; Mr. John C. Burnet, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Jersey; Mr. John McKissick, ruling elder from the Presbytery of New Castle; and Mr. James Irvine, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Baltimore, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions having been read, they took their seats as members.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, the Synodical and Presbyterial reports were received, and committed to Dr. Perine, Messrs. Blain, Wilson, and Thomas Grier, who were directed to examine them, and read to the Assembly those parts which they may think necessary to be read, and prepare a statement to be transcribed into the Compendious View.

A paper, containing a reference from the Synod of Virginia, was read, and the consideration of the subject of the reference was made the order of the day for Tuesday morning next.

An overture, relative to receiving a person as a member of the Church, who is proprietor in a line of stages which carries the mail, and runs on the Sabbath, was read, and committed to Dr. Blatchford, and Messrs. Herron, and Caldwell, to report to the Assembly the several circumstances connected with the case.

The committee appointed to prepare a minute, stating the attention which the Presbyteries appear to have paid to the resolution of the Assembly in relation to the education of pious young men for the gospel ministry, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That the Presbyteries of Ontario, Onondaga, Cayuga, Bath, Oneida, Columbia, Albany, Londonderry, Hudson, Newton, New York, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Carlisle, Redstone, Erie, Lancaster, Portage, Grand River, Hartford, Ohio, Winchester, Hanover, Lexington, Washington, West Lexington, Orange, Fayetteville, Union, and Abingdon, have fully attended to the recommendations of the Assembly.

That the Presbytery of Geneva was excused for not complying with the order on the ground that they had generously contributed toward the same object in another way.

That the Presbyteries of Niagara, Champlain, St. Lawrence, Baltimore, Northumberland, Huntingdon, Concord, and Miami, having offered reasons for their non-compliance with the order of the Assembly, were excused.

That no reports have been received from the Presbyteries of Richland, West Tennessee, Transylvania, South Carolina, Muhlenburg, Mississippi, Harmony, and Shiloh.

And that from the information derived from the whole of the reports submitted on this subject, it appears that there are at present fifty-nine young men of the description contemplated by the Assembly, under the care of the Presbyteries.

A reference from the Presbytery of Hudson, requesting of the Assembly an answer to the following question, was received and read, viz: "Is baptism, administered by a minister after he is deposed from his office, valid?"

*Resolved*, That in answer to this question, the Presbytery be referred to Chap. VII. Sec. 1, of the Directory for public worship.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the report of the committee appointed by a former Assembly to revise the Forms of Government and of Process was read.

After a considerable discussion on the subject, it was

*Resolved*, That one thousand copies of the report, in its present state of progress, be printed, and that a number of copies be sent to the several Presbyteries, sufficient to furnish each member with a copy, with a view to obtain from Presbyteries and individuals, such suggestions and alterations as may appear to them expedient; that the same be transmitted, as soon as practicable to the Rev. Dr. Miller, of Princeton; and that the committee, after availing themselves of the information thus obtained, review and amend their report, and submit the same complete to the next Assembly.

Doctors Green, Hill, and Janeway, were appointed a committee to prepare and report a minute to accompany the publication of the above report.

An appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio from the judgment of the Synod of Pittsburgh, in the case of the Rev. Andrew Gwinn, was overtured, and being read, the consideration of it was made the order of the day for Tuesday next in the afternoon.

The hearing of the Board of Missions was made the order of the day for Tuesday morning.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported; and the book was approved to page 49, except a decision in said book from which an appeal to the General Assembly had been taken by the Presbytery of Ohio, and which had not yet been decided.

An overture signed by the Secretary of the American Colonization Society, was read, and the consideration of it was made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

The committee appointed to prepare and report a minute to accompany the publication of the report of the committee on the Form of Government and of Process, submitted the following, which was approved, viz:

"The General Assembly having heard and considered the report of the committee appointed to review the Form of Government and of Process, in the constitution of this Church; and having resolved to print the same, think proper to accompany it with a few remarks, intended to prevent all misapprehension and mistake in regard to this publication. It is then to be distinctly understood, that no one alteration, addition, or suggestion in this report has, as yet, received the sanction of the Assembly; nor is the Assembly in any degree whatever, pledged to support or approve any article, or idea, of this report. The committee themselves had explicitly stated that in regard to many of their suggestions, they are not yet prepared to give their own vote in favour of them. The whole is therefore published, simply and solely for consideration, and for the purpose of obtaining communications to aid the committee in perfecting the report for the consideration of the next General Assembly. If that body shall judge the way to be sufficiently prepared, they will submit to the Presbyteries, distinct propositions for adoption or rejection in regard to alterations and additions in the Form of Government and of Process in the constitution of this Church. It will be noticed that communications intended for the committee ought to be made, in all cases as speedily as possible; the more speedily the better. If not possessed by the committee by the first of April next, as the most remote period, they can be of little use, and perhaps can have no regard or influence in maturing the report of the committee."

*Resolved*, That Dr. Miller be authorized, and he hereby is authorized, to engage a printer to print one thousand copies of the report of the committee appointed by a former Assembly, to review the Form of Government and of Process.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual account, as settled and approved by the Committee of the Trustees, which was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

Mr. Barr resigned his seat to the Rev. Thomas J. Biggs, who being present, took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day the Assembly proceeded to receive communications on the state of religion; and Messrs. Lansing, Porter, Herron, and Kennedy, were appointed a committee to prepare a connected narrative of the information which may be received on the subject, and lay it before the Assembly. After considerable progress made in the business, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Daniel Smith, commissioner from the Presbytery of Mississippi, appeared in the Assembly. His commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The business left unfinished in the morning, viz: receiving communications on the subject of the state of religion, was resumed. Communications were received from all the Presbyteries and Associations represented in the Assembly, and also from several Presbyteries not represented.

Mr. Joseph Lancaster presented to the Assembly a copy of the first annual report of the comptrollers of the public schools of the first school district of the state of Pennsylvania, accompanied with a letter, inviting the members of the Assembly to visit the Model school to-morrow afternoon.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Assembly be presented to Mr. Lancaster for this pamphlet, and for his kind and respectful invitation, and that the Permanent Clerk forward to Mr. Lancaster an attested copy of this resolution.

Mr. Finney resigned his seat to the Rev. James Magraw, the principal mentioned in their commission. Mr. Latimer resigned his seat to Mr. Robert McMullin, the alternate mentioned in their commission. Messrs. Magraw and McMullin took their seats as members.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Park resigned his seat to the Rev. Samuel Martin, the principal mentioned in their commission. Mr. Martin took his seat as a member.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. John H. Rice, for the missionary sermon which, by their appointment, he preached last evening.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the Committee of Missions read their annual report, and it was committed to Drs. Hill, Blatchford, Janeway, and Mr. Caldwell, to report to the Assembly the several particulars in the aforesaid report which require the attention of the Assembly.

Mr. John Livingstone, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of New Castle, and Mr. Thomas Horner, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions having been read, they took their seats as members.

Mr. James Latta resigned his seat to the Rev. John E. Latta, the alternate mentioned in their commission; Mr. Ballentine resigned his seat to the Rev. George C. Potts, the alternate mentioned in their report; and Messrs. Potts and J. E. Latta took their seats as members.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the reference from the Synod of Virginia relative to a congregation in the city of Alexandria, was taken up, and after the documents on the subject were read, and the parties had been heard at some length, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

Mr. John Beatty, ruling elder, from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission being read, he took his seat as a member.

The business left unfinished in the morning was resumed, and the parties having been heard till they said they were satisfied, the further consideration of the subject was postponed, in order to take up other business.

Whereas the General Assembly attempted, some years back, to establish a brotherly correspondence between the Presbyterian, Reformed Dutch, and Associate Reformed churches, but failed in the attempt; and whereas there is reason to believe that many of the circumstances which then existed in the state of the Associate Reformed Church, as objections against the correspondence, are changed; and whereas the General Assembly represented the largest of the above mentioned three churches, and therefore are more directly bound, when an opportunity offers, to renew the overture for such a correspondence,

*Resolved*, That Doctors Romeyn, Blatchford, and Green, and Mr. Lewis, and Doctor Rodgers, be a committee to confer with a similar committee of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, and report to the next General Assembly the result of their conference on the subject of a brotherly correspondence between the two churches.

Ordered, that the Permanent Clerk furnish them with a copy of the above minute.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary reported; and their report being read, was committed to Messrs. Lewis and Caldwell, to report to the Assembly the particular parts which require their attention.

Mr. Kirkpatrick resigned his seat to the Rev. John F. Clark, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Clark took his seat as a member.

The business left unfinished yesterday afternoon, viz: the consideration of the reference from the Synod of Virginia, was resumed.

This reference contained a complaint from the Presbytery of Baltimore against the Presbytery of Winchester, stating that in the year A. D. 1792, the General Assembly of this Church did determine that the congregation of Alexandria should belong to the Presbytery of Baltimore; that, nevertheless, on a late occasion, when a second Presbyterian congregation was to be organized in Alexandria, a large proportion of which was to consist of members formerly belonging to the first Presbyterian congregation of that place, a member of the Presbytery of Winchester, without the countenance or consent of the Presbytery of Baltimore, did organize the said congregation; and the said Presbytery of Winchester did receive the said second congregation under their care, and claim and treat it as a congregation properly belonging to their jurisdiction; all which proceedings the Presbytery of Baltimore consider as a violation of their rights and claims, ascertained and established by the above determination of the General Assembly, and by the constitutional provisions of this Church, and therefore the Presbytery make complaint to this General Assembly, and ask a redress of the grievances which they have specified.

After a full discussion of the subject, the following resolution was adopted, viz: Inasmuch as the order of the General Assembly of 1792, respecting the bounds of the Synods of Philadelphia and Virginia, placed the city of Alexandria, and no other, on the south side of the Potomac, within the bounds of the Synod of Philadelphia; Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the second congregation of Alexandria properly belongs to the Presbytery of Winchester; and that the said Presbytery, in receiving the second congregation under their care, are guilty of no infringement of the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Baltimore.

Messrs Janvier and Woodruff obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to state to the Assembly the particular parts of the report of the Board of Missions which require the attention of the Assembly, brought in their report, which being read, was accepted.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Swan resigned his seat to Mr. Samuel Holcomb, the alternate mentioned in their commission. Mr. Howell resigned his seat to Mr. Joseph Montgomery, the alternate mentioned in their commission. And Messrs. Holcomb and Montgomery took their seats as members.

The Rev. John Jones, the alternate mentioned in Mr. Janvier's commission, appeared in the Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

The committee appointed to prepare a connected narrative of the state of religion, brought in their report, and after it was read and several alterations had been suggested, it was recommitted to the same committee, to be amended again, and submitted to the Assembly.

Mr. Cook obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The report accepted in the morning, viz: the report of the committee appointed to examine the report of the Board of Missions, and state to the Assembly the parts of the report which require the attention of the Assembly, was read by paragraphs, and being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, 1. That it be, and it hereby is, recommended to the Presbyteries which have not yet adopted the plan of the Board of Missions, to form missionary societies auxiliary to the Board, agreeably to the plan which has been proposed and published by the said Board, and recommended by a former Assembly.

2. That the Presbyteries who may form themselves into missionary societies auxiliary to the Board, be, and hereby they are instructed to report to the Board the establishment of such societies, and annually, a brief account of their operations; and that the same be recommended to all other societies that may become auxiliary to the Board.

3. That all the Presbyteries be, and they are hereby requested to adopt measures for the taking up of collections in all their congregations, for the missionary fund, agreeably to repeated instructions of the Assembly.

4. That it be, and it is hereby recommended to all the Presbyteries and congregations, in making and disposing of collections for the Missionary and Commissioners' Fund, to appropriate a due proportion to each fund, and also that the congregations avoid combining these important objects with any

other that may require a considerable proportion of the collections intended for them.

5. That the Presbyteries be, and they are hereby informed that they are not to consider the formation of auxiliary societies as exempting them from the duty of taking up collections for the Assembly's missionary fund.

6. That the Trustees of the General Assembly be instructed to issue warrants for the payment of the following sums to the following missionaries, viz:

The Rev. Asahel Stone, $110.11. Rev. Hugh Wallis, 115.60. Rev. Andrew Rawson, 114.10. Rev. John Davenport, 32.36. Rev. Henry Ford, 137.88. Rev. Phineas Camp, 148.00. Rev. E. Price, 40.00. Rev. Joshua Spaulding, 20.00. Rev. Charles Webster, 80.00. Rev. Samuel Weed, 80.00. Rev. John Gloucester, 20.00. Rev. James Thompson, 44.20. Rev. Gideon Judd, 240.00. Rev. William Moderwell, 67.13. Rev. John Monteith, 40.00. Rev. George Reid, 135.63. Rev. James Hughes, 40.00. Mr. Robert Glenn, 26.33. Mr. R. K. Rodgers, 48.10. Mr. Samuel L. Graham, 30.13. Mr. N. Patterson, 112.50. Mr. William Chester, 45.00. Mr. James C. Barnes, 54.88. Rev. Dr. I. Hall, 78.05. Rev. Francis H. Porter, 64.75.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The religious exercises appointed for last evening were attended to. The audience was large, attentive, and solemn.

Mr. Ebenezer Seely, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, appeared in the Assembly, and his commission having been read, he took his seat as a member.

It having been the order of the day for Tuesday last, but the consideration of it having been prevented by other business, the appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio, from the judgment of the Synod of Pittsburgh, was taken up, and the documents were read.

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. Before the question on this motion was taken, the narrative of the state of religion was committed to Dr. Blatchford, Messrs. Lansing, Martin, and Frost, to review it and make such corrections and amendments as they may think proper, and submit it, when amended, to the Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P.M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Woodhull resigned his seat to the Rev. Isaac V. Brown, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Brown took his seat as a member.

The consideration of the appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio, from the decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, in the case of Mr. Gwinn, was resumed; and after the Presbytery had been heard in defence of their appeal, the further consideration of the subject was postponed, to attend to other business.

The committee to which was referred the report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported in part, and the following resolutions were adopted, viz :

*Resolved*, 1. That the sum of four thousand dollars, in addition to the unexpended balance of nine hundred and twelve dollars and fifty-four cents be appropriated for the general purposes of the Seminary.

2. That the sum of one thousand dollars be appropriated to the purpose

of furnishing the library room and the unfinished lodging rooms in the third story, in the theological edifice.

3. That the Assembly approve the measures of the Board in providing by room rent, a small fund for defraying expenses incidental to the edifice; such as servants' wages, cleaning the house, providing fuel and lights for the public rooms, &c.

4. That it be recommended that a collection be annually taken up in all the churches under the care of the General Assembly, for the contingent fund or current expenses of the Seminary; and that the various Presbyteries annually report to the Assembly the amount thus collected, in the same manner in which they report the sums contributed for the Education, Commissioners', and Missionary Funds.

5. That the General Assembly have remarked, with peculiar pleasure, the Christian liberality of the Female Societies which have contributed to the support of indigent students, in the Theological Seminary.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the plan of the Theological Seminary be amended by striking out the third section of the fourth article, and substituting in the place thereof, the following, viz:

"There shall be an examination of all the pupils in the Seminary at every stated meeting of the Board of Directors. Those pupils who shall have regularly and diligently studied for three years, shall be admitted to an examination on the subjects specified in this article. All examinations shall be conducted by the Professors, in the presence of the Directors, or a committee of them. Every Director present shall be at liberty, during the progress of any examination, or after the same shall have been closed by the Professors, to put to any of the pupils, such questions as he shall deem proper. Every pupil that shall have passed his final examination to the satisfaction of the Directors present, shall receive a certificate of the same, signed by the Professors, with which he shall be remitted to the Presbytery under whose care he is placed, to be disposed of as such Presbytery shall direct. Those who do not pass a satisfactory examination shall remain a longer space in the Seminary."

Nominations were made to supply the vacancies in the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, and the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow afternoon.

The calling for the report of the agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the funds of the Theological Seminary, was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 28*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva, reported, and the book was approved to page 160.

The following communication was received and read, viz:

*Session of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, May* 27*th*, 1819.

*Resolved*, That this Synod reciprocate to the General Assembly their assurances of a disposition to maintain a friendly correspondence; and that the Rev. Drs. Mason and Proudfit, and Mr. McLeod, ministers, and Messrs. William Wilson, and Henry Rankin, elders, be, and they hereby are appointed commissioners to confer on this subject with the commissioners already appointed by the General Assembly; and that the result of their deliberations be reported to this Synod at its next meeting.

By order of General Synod, ROBERT MCCARTEE, *Clerk of Synod.*

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina, reported, and the book was approved to page 46.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary, reported, and their reports were committed to Messrs. Cox and Turner, who were directed to prepare a statement of the result of their agency, and report it to the Assembly.

The part of the report of the committee to which was referred the report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, which was read yesterday, was taken up, and being read, was unanimously adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the plan of the Theological Seminary be further amended by striking out the tenth section of the sixth article, and substituting in the place thereof the following, viz: There shall be three vacations in the Seminary every year: the spring vacation to continue six weeks, the fall vacation six weeks, and the winter vacation two weeks. The vacations to commence at such times as the Board of Directors shall deem most expedient.

A resolution for the establishment of a General Board of Education, similar to that of the Board of Missions, was submitted to the Assembly and read. The consideration of it was made the order of the day for to-morrow.

The connected narrative was again read in the Assembly, and after it was amended, it was,

*Resolved*, That one thousand copies of it be printed.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Horner resigned his seat to Mr. Joseph R. Dixon, the alternate mentioned in their commission. Mr. Dixon took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, the election was held for Directors of the Theological Seminary. The ballots being taken, were committed to Messrs. Biggs, Culbertson, and Lewis, to read them and report to the Assembly the number of votes given for the several candidates. This committee reported, and from the report it appeared that the following persons were duly elected Directors of the Theological Seminary for three years, viz: Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., Rev. Eliphalet Nott, D. D., Rev. Asa Hillyer, D. D., Rev. John Chester, Rev. John H. Rice, Rev. Gardiner Spring, Rev. Matthew L. R. Perine, D. D., ministers; and Messrs. Zechariah Lewis, Elias B. Caldwell, and Dr. John Van Cleve, elders.

The consideration of the appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio from the decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, was again taken up, and after the members of the Synod had made some progress in the defence of their decision, the Assembly

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 29th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and the book was approved to page 420.

The consideration of the appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio, from the decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, in the case of Mr. Gwinn, was resumed, and the members of the Synod finished their defence of their decision.

Mr. Ogilvie obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The consideration of the appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio, from the decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, in the case of Mr. Gwinn, was resumed, and the parties were heard until they said they had nothing farther to add.

A motion was made and seconded, that the appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio be sustained, and the decision of the Synod in the case be reversed. Before the question on this subject was taken, the Assembly adjourned until 9 o'clock next Monday morning.

Concluded with prayer.

*May 31st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Balch resigned his seat to the Rev. Elias Harrison, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Harrison took his seat as a member.

Mr. Parker obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to make a distribution of the Commissioners' Fund, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That there is due to the commissioners two thousand and twenty-eight dollars fourteen cents, allowing them seven and a half cents per mile for the distance travelled in coming to the Assembly, to defray their travelling expenses."

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the foregoing sum, to the several commissioners, as specified in the report of the committee.

The consideration of the motion made and seconded yesterday, viz: that the appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio, from the decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, in the case of Mr. Gwinn, be sustained, and the decision of the Synod in the case be reversed, was taken up.

The decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh reversed a decision of the Presbytery of Ohio, by which decision the Presbytery had suspended the Rev. Andrew Gwinn, *sine die*, from the office of the gospel ministry.

After a long discussion of the subject of this motion, a motion was made and seconded, that the motion before the Assembly be postponed, with a view to remit the matter to the Synod, to review their proceedings and decision in the case, and to take such order as they might, upon their review of it, think proper to take.

After some discussion, the question upon the motion for the postponement was taken, and decided in the negative. The original motion then recurred, and the question upon it was taken, and determined in the affirmative, viz: that the appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio be sustained, and the decision of the Synod of Pittsburg, in the case of Mr. Gwinn, be reversed.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Associations of Connecticut and Massachusetts proper, reported that they had attended agreeably to their appointment.

A nomination was made for delegates to the several Associations connected with this Assembly; and the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, That no election for Trustees of the General Assembly be held this year.

The committee to which were referred the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, read their report, which was accepted, and the Stated Clerk was directed to transcribe it into the Compendious View.

The following overture was submitted to the Assembly, which being read and amended, was adopted, viz:

The objects and plans of the American society for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States having been stated to the General Assembly, and the same having been considered and discussed, the Assembly

*Resolved*, That, in their opinion, the plan of the society is benevolent in its design, and if properly supported, and judiciously and vigorously prosecuted, calculated to be extensively useful to this country and to Africa.

The situation of the people of colour in this country has frequently attracted the attention of this Assembly. In the distinctive and indelible marks of their colour, and the prejudices of the people, an insuperable obstacle has been placed to the execution of any plan for elevating their character, and placing them on a footing with their brethren of the same common family. In restoring them to the land of their fathers, the Assembly hope that the way may be opened, not only for the accomplishment of that object, but for introducing civilization and the gospel to the benighted nations of Africa.

From the information and statements received, the Assembly believe that the proposed colony in Africa may be made a powerful auxiliary in the efforts which are making to abolish the iniquitous traffic in slaves carried on in Africa, and happily calculated to lay the foundation of a gradual emancipation of slaves in our own country in a legal and constitutional manner, and without violating the rights or injuring the feelings of our southern brethren.

With these views the Assembly feel it a duty to recommend the American society for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States to the patronage and attention of the churches under their care, and to benevolent individuals throughout the union.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*June 1st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. King obtained leave of absence from the Assembly till Thursday morning.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio, reported, and the book was approved to page 99.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synods of South Carolina and Georgia, of Philadelphia, of Albany, and of Virginia reported that the records of these Synods had not been forwarded, and the committees were discharged.

It being the order of the day for this morning, an election was held for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly. After the ballots were taken and counted, the Rev. Henry Axtell, Rev. Jesse H. Turner, and Rev. Daniel Smith, were declared duly elected delegates to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut. And

The Rev. Henry Axtell, and the Rev. Jesse H. Turner, were chosen delegates to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Massachusetts proper; and the Rev. Daniel Smith was appointed alternate to either of these delegates who may fail to attend.

The Rev. Andrew Rawson was duly chosen a delegate to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire, and also to attend the next meeting of the General Convention of Vermont, and the Rev. Ethan Smith was appointed his alternate.

The committee appointed to report to the Assembly the result of the agency of the several agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the funds of the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read, was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

That from most of the agents no reports have been received.

That the following sums have been collected for the permanent fund:

By the Rev. Colin McIver, the farther sum to found a scholarship, by the Presbytery of Fayetteville, $380 35½. By the Rev. Dr. Neill, for the permanent fund, 315.00. By the Rev. John Johnson, for ditto, 40.00. By the Rev. Dr. Hall, 927.46. Total, $1662.81½.

That the following sums have been collected for the contingent fund, viz:

By the Rev. J. F. Clark, raised from Dollar Society, $120.00. By the Rev. J. E. Latta, old subscription, 11.00. Collected for the year 1818, 30.50. By the Rev. George Duffield, subscription in Great Cove, 41.50. By congregational collection at Silver Spring, 40.05. By subscription at Harrisburgh, 78.00. By subscription at Carlisle, 325.50. By the Rev. Samuel Tait, 20.00. By the Rev. Mr. Dunham, 18.00. By the Rev. John McCampbell, 17.24. By the Rev. William A. McDowell, in North Carolina, obtained on subscription, 1438.00; of this collected, 782.00. Expended on his agency, 330.00. Leaving a balance paid over of 452.00. Total, $1153.79.

There has been paid over to the Treasurer for the Permanent Fund one thousand and forty-five dollars for the Contingent Fund, six hundred, and thirteen dollars fifty cents.

Drs. Blatchford, Hall, Hosack, and Hill, were appointed a committee to select, and recommend to the Assembly, persons suitable to be appointed agents for the current year, to solicit donations for the funds of the Theological Seminary.

An overture for the establishment, by the Assembly, of a General Board of Education, was submitted to the Assembly, and after it was read, it was agreed to consider it by paragraphs.

After the subject of the preamble and first resolution had been discussed for a considerable time, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Thomas Littlejohn, ruling elder from the Presbytery of Orange, appeared in the Assembly. His commission being read, he took his seat as a member

Mr. Caldwell obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

A recommendation from the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, for an efficient and speedy supply to the Contingent Fund of the Seminary, was read and laid on the table for future consideration.

The consideration of the overture for the establishment, by the Assembly, of a General Board of Education, was resumed, and after a motion made and seconded, to postpone the farther consideration of it till the meeting of the next General Assembly having been put, was lost, and after a considerable discussion, the overture, being amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

" Whereas the General Assembly forms the bond of union of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and affords the acknowledged means of combining the intelligence and concentrating the efforts of that denomination. Whereas the present state of our country most loudly calls for increasing energy and zeal in training young men for the ministry of the gospel, and it has become necessary to originate new and more efficient measures for carrying on this great and important work; to systematize and unite the efforts that are now making within our bounds; and whereas it is desirable that a fund be established, under the direction of the General Assembly, which, among other objects, might afford assistance to those Presbyteries and parts of the Church that may require the same; Therefore,

*Resolved*, 1. That the General Assembly establish a General Board of Education.

2. That it be recommended that Boards of Education be formed within our bounds, auxiliary to the Board of the General Assembly, as extensively as possible.

3. That it be recommended to the several Presbyteries to form themselves into education societies auxiliary to the Board, and to adopt the most vigorous efforts to accomplish this important object.

4. That as a fundamental principle, no young man shall be patronized and assisted by the funds of the Board, who shall not, in the judgment of the Board, or of some auxiliary society, give hopeful evidence of piety and promising talents.

5. That it be the object of this Education Board, and its auxiliaries, to assist the young men, under their patronage and direction, to obtain all parts of an education necessary to their introduction into the pulpit, including both their classical and Theological course.

6. That the Boards auxiliary to the Board of the Assembly shall be permitted to make such arrangements and selections of places for the young men under their care to prosecute their education, whether classical or theological, as they may prefer.

7. That the auxiliaries shall annually report their proceedings to the Board; and that the Board report to the Assembly.

8. That the auxiliaries shall send to the Board all the surplus funds in their hands, which shall not be necessary for those young men under their own immediate care.

9. That the Board, according to its best discretion, assign to the several auxiliary societies their just proportion of the whole disposable funds of the Board.

10. That Doctors Hill, Richards, and Blatchford, with the Rev. Messrs. Martin, and Herron, be appointed a committee to digest and draw up a constitution embracing these fundamental objects, and to present it to this Assembly for their adoption.

Messrs. Williams, Marquess, Hughes, Swan, Graham, and Camp, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

*June 2nd, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed by the last Assembly to extract from the records of the General Assembly, and of the late Synod of New York and Philadelphia, all such matters as may appear to be of permanent authority and interest, reported; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the work reported by this committee be completed on the plan reported, and that when thus finished, the committee be authorized to have four thousand copies printed, and offered for sale at a reasonable price.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be requested to defray the expense of printing the above work, and to secure the copy-right of it; and that the Presbyteries be requested to promote the sale of the same.

The committee to which was referred the overture relative to receiving a person as a member of the church, who is a proprietor in a line of stages which carries the mail and runs on the Sabbath, reported, and their report being read, the consideration of it was postponed to take up the following substitute, which, after considerable discussion, was adopted, viz:

" *Resolved*, That it is the decided opinion of this Assembly that all attention to worldly concerns on the Lord's day, farther than the works of necessity and mercy demand, is inconsistent both with the letter and spirit of the fourth commandment; and, consequently, all engagements in regard to secular occupations on the Lord's day, with a view to secure worldly advantages, are to be considered inconsistent with Christian character, and that those who are concerned in such engagements ought not to be admitted into the communion of the Church while they continue in the same."

*Resolved*, That the Directors of the Theological Seminary be authorized, and they are hereby authorized to apply to the Trustees of the Assembly, to borrow, if necessary, such sums of money as may be required to meet the current expenses of the institution.

Messrs. Thompson and Burnet obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to report to the Assembly suitable persons to be appointed agents for the current year, to solicit contributions to the funds of the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That the following persons be appointed agents to solicit contributions, viz: In the Presbytery of Niagara, Rev. Calvin Colton. Presbytery of Ontario, Rev. Abraham Forman. Presbytery of Onondaga, Rev. James Sanford and Mr. Chadwick. Presbytery of Cayuga, Rev. Dirck C. Lansing. Presbytery of Geneva, Rev. Henry Axtell. Presbytery of Bath, Rev. Robert Hubbard. Presbytery of Champlain, Rev. Samuel W. Whelpley. Presbytery of Oneida, Rev. John Smith. Presbytery of Columbia, Rev. Samuel Tomb. Presbytery of St. Lawrence, Rev. Daniel Banks. Presbytery of Albany, Rev. Messrs. John Chester and Reuben Smith. Presbytery of Londonderry, Rev. Edward Parker. Presbytery of Hudson, Rev. Messrs. John Johnson and Ezra Fisk. Presbytery of Newton, Rev. Messrs. Jacob Kirkpatrick and John F. Clark. Presbytery of New York, Rev. Henry R. Weed. Presbytery of Long Island, Rev. Samuel Robertson. Presbytery of Jersey, Rev. Dr. Hillyer and Rev. Peter A. Johnson. Presbytery of New Brunswick, Rev. George S. Woodhull. Presbytery of Philadelphia, Rev. Drs.

Janeway and Neill. Presbytery of New Castle, Rev. Mr. Martin. Presbytery of Carlisle, Rev. George Duffield. Presbytery of Baltimore, Rev. Messrs. Thomas B. Balch and Elias Harrison. Presbytery of Huntingdon, Rev. John Coulter. Presbytery of Redstone, Rev. Francis Herron. Presbytery of Richland, Rev. James Scott. Presbytery of Erie, Rev. Samuel Tait. Presbytery of Lancaster, Rev. John Wright. Presbytery of Portage, Rev. Alvin Coe. Presbytery of Grand River, Rev. Amasa Loomis. Presbytery of Hartford, Rev. Thomas L. Hughes. Presbytery of Ohio, Rev. Moses Allen. Presbytery of Winchester, Dr. Hill, and Rev. Samuel Wilson. Presbytery of Lexington, Rev. James Morrison. Presbytery of Hanover, Rev. John H. Rice. Presbytery of Washington, Rev. Isaac Cook. Presbytery of West Lexington, Rev. John R. Moreland. Presbytery of Orange, Rev. William Paisley. Presbytery of Fayetteville, Rev. Colin McIver. Presbytery of West Tennessee, Rev. David Weir. Presbytery of Concord, Rev. Joseph D. Kilpatrick. Presbytery of Transylvania, Rev. John T. Edgar. Presbytery of South Carolina, Rev. James Hillhouse. Presbytery of Union, Rev. Messrs. Isaac Anderson and John McCampbell. Presbytery of Mecklenburgh, Rev. Nathan H. Hall. Presbytery of Mississippi, Rev. David Smith. Presbytery of Harmony, Rev. Thomas Alexander. Presbytery of Abingdon, Rev. James Gallagher. Presbytery of Miami, Rev. Daniel Hayden.

*Resolved*, That the Presbyteries to which the agents severally belong, take order for the supply of their pulpits during their attention to the business of their agency.

Whereas, it appears to be of much importance that the contingent fund, destined to defray the current expenses of the Theological Seminary, should be replenished as speedily as possible, the General Assembly do earnestly recommend that a collection be taken up in aid of this fund in all the congregations under their care, on or before the first Sabbath of November next; and that the same be forwarded, with as little delay as possible, to the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly, Isaac Snowden, Esq., of Philadelphia. And the agents of the Assembly to solicit for the funds of the Theological Seminary for the ensuing year, are also directed to forward, as speedily as practicable, the moneys they may collect for the contingent fund of the Assembly.

*Resolved*, That Drs. Green, Alexander, and Miller, be a committee to employ an agent or agents, if practicable, whose duty it shall be to solicit donations and form societies to aid the funds of the Theological Seminary; and that said committee be invested with discretionary powers as to the place or places where the agent or agents shall be employed; also that the said committee be authorized to pay the agent or agents a reasonable compensation for their services from the unappropriated funds of the Seminary.

The committee appointed to draught a constitution for establishing a General Board of Education, agreeably to the resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, reported one, which being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

I. There shall be a General Board of Education, known by the name of *The Board of Education*, under the care of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

II. The Board shall consist of thirty-six members; of whom there shall be twenty ministers and sixteen elders, one minister and one elder to be chosen from each Synod, and the remainder from Philadelphia, and from a distance convenient to it. Seven members, including the President or Vice-President, shall be a quorum to transact business.

III. The whole number of members shall be divided into four classes—one fourth to be annually elected.

IV. The election of the members of the Board shall be made by nomination and ballot by the General Assembly.

V. The officers shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Recording and a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be annually elected by the Board.

VI. The objects of this Board shall be,

1. To recognize such Presbyteries and other associations as may form themselves into education societies, as auxiliary to the General Board.
2. To assist such Presbyteries and associations in educating pious youth for the gospel ministry, both in their academical and theological course.
3. To assign, according to their best discretion, to the several auxiliary societies, a just portion of the whole disposable funds under their control.
4. To concert and execute such measures as they shall judge to be proper for increasing their funds, and promoting the general object.

VII. No young man shall be patronized or assisted by any auxiliary society, unless he shall produce a testimonial of his hopeful piety and talents from some Presbytery under whose care he shall have been taken.

VIII. Auxiliary societies may make such arrangements and selection of a seminary for the young men under their patronage, as, in their opinion, shall be most eligible for the prosecuting of their education, whether classical or theological.

IX. The auxiliary societies shall send to the Board all the surplus funds in their hands which shall not be necessary for the accommodation of those immediately depending on them for support.

X. Every auxiliary society shall annually forward a report of their proceedings to the Board, sufficiently early to enable the Board, whose duty it shall be, to report to the General Assembly.

XI. The Board shall have power to make such by-laws to regulate their own proceedings, and effectually to accomplish the great object of their appointment, as shall not be inconsistent with this constitution.

XII. The Board may propose to the General Assembly, from time to time, such plans as they may consider useful and necessary for the success of this institution, to be recommended to the several societies or churches, as the Assembly may think proper.

XIII. No addition or amendment to the provisions of this constitution shall be made, unless by the consent of two-thirds of the members of the General Assembly present at any of their sessions; of which notice shall be given at least one day previous.

Nominations were made for persons to be chosen members of the General Board of Education, and the election was made the order of the day for this afternoon.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky, reported, and the book was approved to page 138.

The General Assembly viewing with deep interest the present state of our country, and more especially the commercial embarrassments which press upon every part of the United States, and the spirit of corrupt and mischievous speculation, which is probably to be regarded as both a cause and an effect of these embarrassments, feel it to be their duty to take this notice of this unhappy state of things, and to express their opinion of the proper remedy.

The Assembly, then, are persuaded, that the evils so general in their prevalence, and so severe in their pressure, primarily on the commercial and manufacturing portions of the community, but in a considerable degree on all, owe their origin, in a great measure, to that spirit of cupidity, of adventurous and unjustifiable speculation, of extravagance and luxury, which so unhappily prevail in our country; and also in no small degree to the want of that kind of education which is calculated to prepare a youth for solid usefulness in the Church, and in civil society. The Assembly, therefore, are firmly persuaded, that the effectual remedy for these evils, under God, is to be found only in a recurrence to those principles and duties to our holy religion, which are not less conducive to the temporal welfare of men, than to their eternal happiness; and they have no hope that general prosperity can be restored to our country, until there is a return to those habits of industry, temperance, moderation, economy, and general virtue, which our common Christianity inculcates.

Under these impressions the Assembly would earnestly exhort the churches under their care, to take into due consideration the opinions above expressed; to cultivate in themselves, and to endeavour to promote in others, those simple, frugal, and regular pursuits, which cannot fail to exert a most benign influence on the best interests of society; and to train up their children in those principles and habits which will prepare them at once to be useful members of the Church and useful citizens. They would especially entreat those individuals and families belonging to their communion, whom God has been pleased to favour with temporal wealth, to consider the peculiar importance of their setting an edifying example, so that their whole influence may be employed to discourage fashionable vices and amusements, and to promote the simplicity and purity of Christian practice. And the Assembly would also earnestly exhort all the ministers in their communion to make these sentiments a subject of frequent and serious address to the people of their respective pastoral charges, and to endeavour, by all the means in their power, to impress on the minds of their hearers the all important truth, that the religion of Jesus Christ, in its vital power and practical influence, is the best friend of civil society, as well as essential to the eternal well-being of man.

Ordered, That the stated Clerk have an attested extract of the above minute published in the principal newspapers of this city, accompanied with a note, requesting editors of other papers to publish the same.

The following resolution being submitted to the Assembly, was read, viz:

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the present state of psalmody in our Church, and if they think it expedient, to digest and prepare an improved system for that important part of public worship; and also, that the committee be empowered, if they deem it proper, to compile a larger body of hymns than are contained in our ordinary collections; the whole, when prepared agreeably to the views of the committee, to be submitted to the General Assembly.

After some discussion of the subject,

*Resolved*, That the above resolution be, and it hereby is recommended to the attention of the next Assembly.

*Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk be authorized and directed to liquidate all accounts for printing done by order of the Assembly, and also for transmitting the printed extracts from the minutes of the Assembly to the places of their destination.

*Resolved*, That Mr. William Bradford, the agent of the Assembly, send to the Presbyteries not represented in this Assembly, copies of the Form of Government and Process, which have been printed by order of this Assembly.

Messrs. Ford, Muirhead, Beattie, and Elias Smith, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P.M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, an election was held for persons to constitute the Board of Education. After the ballots had been taken and the votes counted, the following persons were declared to have been duly chosen, viz:

Of the city of Philadelphia and its vicinity, Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., LL. D., Rev. Samuel Miller., D. D., E.H.P., Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., S.T.P., Rev. Jacob Jones Janeway, D. D., Rev. George C. Potts, Rev. John Ewing Latta, Rev. William Neill, D. D., Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely, D. D., Rev. Isaac V. Brown. *Elders*—Robert Ralston, Esq., Alexander Henry, Esq., Mr. John McMullin, Mr. John W. Scott, Mr. Samuel Morrow.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. Henry Axtell. *Elder*—Col. John Linklaen.

Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D. *Elder*—John Woodworth, Esq.

Of the Synod of New York, Rev. John Broadhead Romeyn, D. D. *Elder*—Mr. Zechariah Lewis.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. Samuel Martin. *Elder*—William Kirkpatrick, Esq.

Of the Synod of Virginia, Rev. John H. Rice. *Elder*—William Maxwell, Esq.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. Francis Herron. *Elder*—Mr. A. Brown.

Of the Synod of Ohio, Rev. Robert G. Wilson, D. D. *Elder*—Mr. E. Putnam.

Of the Synod of Tennessee, Rev. Charles Coffin, D. D. *Elder*—Mr. John Montgomery.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe, D. D. *Elder*—Mr. William Trigg.

Of the Synod of North Carolina, Rev. Joseph Caldwell, D. D. *Elder*—Mr. Henry Potter.

Of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, Rev. Andrew Flinn, D. D. *Elder*—Mr. William Leslie.

The following persons were chosen and appointed a Board of Missions for the ensuing year, viz:

Of Philadelphia and its vicinity, the Rev. Drs. Green, Alexander, Wilson, Miller, Janeway, and Neill; the Rev. Messrs. Potts, and Skinner; and Messrs. Boudinot, Connelly, J. McMullin, R. Smith, R. Ralston, and S. Bayard.

Of New York, the Rev. Dr. Romeyn, and Messrs. Lenox, Rodgers, Bethune, Lewis, and Rensselaer Havens.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. David Higgins.

Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Jonas Coe, D. D.

Of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, Rev. James Richards, D. D

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Rev. Elisha McCurdy.

Of the Synod of Virginia, Rev. John H. Rice.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe, D. D.

Of the Synod of Ohio, Rev. Robert G. Wilson, D. D.

Of the Synod of North Carolina, Rev. James Hall, D. D.

Of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, Rev. A. Flinn, D. D.

Of the Synod of Tennessee, Rev. Gideon Blackburn.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Education be, and they hereby are, directed to meet on the fourth Wednesday of this month, (June,) at 4 o'clock, P. M., in the session room of the Second Presbyterian Church in this city.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk send notice to the distant members of the Board, of the time and place of meeting, requesting them to attend.

*Resolved,* That Dr. Green be associated with Dr. Miller, in writing the History of the Presbyterian Church.

The committee appointed to inquire whether any, and if any, what alterations of, or additions to, the rules of proceeding in the General Assembly are desirable, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That in the place of the fourth rule, the following be substituted, viz:

IV. Petitions, questions relating either to doctrine or order, intended to be brought before the Assembly for decision, and in general, all new propositions tending to general laws, shall usually be laid before the Committee of Bills and Overtures before they be offered to the Assembly.

That in place of the fifth rule, the following be substituted, viz:

Rule V. The Assembly shall also, at every meeting, appoint a committee to be styled the Judicial Committee, whose duty it shall be to take into consideration all appeals and references, brought to the Assembly; to ascertain whether they are in order, to digest and arrange all the documents relating to the same, and to propose to the Assembly the best method of proceeding in each case.

The following is to be added to Rule IX., viz:

If the previous question be decided in the affirmative, the debate on the main question may proceed; but if it be decided in the negative, the effect shall be to arrest the discussion, and to produce an indefinite postponement of the main question.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk for his services rendered the Assembly, agreeably to the rate fixed by a former Assembly, and for the stationery furnished for their use.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of twenty-five dollars to Joseph Jacobs for twelve days' attendance on the Assembly, and for a box furnished for their use; and for the payment of twelve dollars to the sexton of this church, for his attendance for twelve days.

The roll being called, agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain whether any members had left the Assembly without leave, it was agreed to report to the Presbyteries as delinquents in this respect the following persons, viz:

Messrs. Weed, Webster, Haycox, Allen, Stephenson, Jones, Irvine, Wilson, and Bushnell.

*Resolved,* That this Assembly be dissolved, and that another Assembly, chosen in the same manner, be required to meet in the Second Presbyterian Church, in this city, on the third Thursday in May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1819.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Niagara, | 10 | 1 | 32 | 646 | $ 12 |
| Ontario, | 20 | 2 | 23 | 873 | 32 |
| Bath, | 6 | — | 11 | 381 | 18 |
| Geneva, | 17 | 3 | 22 | 1517 | — |
| Cayuga, | 19 | 1 | 28 | 1689 | 175 |
| Onondaga, | 21 | 1 | 29 | 1999 | 170 |
| Albany, | 16 | 3 | 22 | 2196 | 736 |
| Columbia, | 13 | 4 | 23 | 1330 | 408 |

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oneida, | 25 | — | 25 | 1624 | 96 |
| Londonderry, | 18 | 5 | 13 | 742 | 93 |
| Champlain, | 10 | — | 13 | 380 | — |
| St Lawrence, | 12 | — | 4 | 52 | 53 |
| Long Island, | 16 | 2 | 16 | 1114 | 57 |
| Hudson, | 22 | 4 | 39 | 2877 | 279 |
| New York, | 13 | 8 | 12 | 2268 | 492 |
| Jersey, | 28 | 11 | 29 | 5554 | 525 |
| New Brunswick, | 16 | 2 | 16 | 1579 | 265 |
| Newton, | 14 | 2 | 25 | 1515 | 71 |
| Philadelphia, | 26 | 4 | 37 | 3895 | 825 |
| New Castle. | 27 | 3 | 51 | 3041 | 313 |
| Baltimore, | 16 | 2 | 12 | 613 | 244 |
| Carlisle, | 19 | 3 | 36 | 2778 | 218 |
| Huntingdon, | 12 | — | 29 | 1511 | 58 |
| Northumberland, | 7 | 1 | 15 | 833 | — |
| Redstone, | 19 | 2 | 23 | 791 | 466 |
| Ohio, | 28 | 2 | 48 | 3181 | 1104 |
| Erie, | 12 | — | 46 | 384 | 72 |
| Hartford, | 9 | 2 | 25 | 940 | 13 |
| Grand River, | 6 | — | 16 | 510 | 29 |
| Portage, | 7 | — | 20 | 365 | 145 |
| Hanover, | 15 | 9 | 26 | 561 | 3950 |
| Lexington, | 16 | — | 30 | 798 | 685 |
| Winchester, | 13 | 1 | 15 | 739 | 1240 |
| Abingdon, | 7 | — | 10 | 590 | — |
| Transylvania, | 9 | — | 17 | 868 | 394 |
| West Lexington, | 12 | — | 27 | 1358 | 115 |
| Muhlenburg. No report. | | | | | |
| Louisville. No report. | | | | | |
| Washington, | 9 | 1 | 26 | 1362 | 338 |
| Lancaster, | 15 | 1 | 34 | 1328 | 272 |
| Miami, | 14 | — | 35 | 498 | 202 |
| Richland, | 7 | — | 22 | 418 | 39 |
| Union, | 9 | 6 | 16 | 578 | 55 |
| West Tennessee, | 6 | 2 | 16 | 568 | — |
| Shiloh. No report. | | | | | |
| Mississippi. No report. | | | | | |
| Missouri. No report. | | | | | |
| Orange, | 10 | 5 | 22 | 580 | 276 |
| Fayetteville, | 11 | 1 | 32 | 2122 | 537 |
| Concord, | 16 | 1 | 68 | 3188 | 50 |
| Harmony, | 19 | 5 | 28 | 326 | — |
| South Carolina, | 15 | 2 | 30 | 941 | 127 |
| Hopewell. No report. | | | | | |
| Total, | 687 | 102 | 1194 | 63,997 | $15,149 |

# 1820.

PHILADELPHIA, *May 20th*, 1820.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment in the Second Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, May 18th, 1820, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened by the Rev. Dr. John H. Rice, the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from Rom. xiv. 19: "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

After prayer, the commissions were read, and it appeared that the following ministers and elders were duly appointed, and attended as commissioners to this Assembly, viz:

PRESBYTERY OF NIAGARA—The Rev. James C. Crane. Mr. George W. Robinson, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF GENESSEE—None.

PRESBYTERY OF ROCHESTER—The Rev. Herman Halsey. Mr. Levi Ward, Jr., elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ONTARIO—The Rev. Silas Pratt.

PRESBYTERY OF BATH—None.

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA—The Rev. Joseph Merrill. Mr. Orin Grun, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA—The Rev. Samuel Parker, Rev. Seth Smith, and Rev. William Wisner. Mr. George W. Phillips, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ONONDAGA——The Rev. James H. Mills, and Rev. John Davenport. Mr. John Linklaen, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ONEIDA—The Rev. Hezekiah N. Woodruff. Mr. Abijah Thomas, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF ST. LAWRENCE—The Rev. George W. Gale.

PRESBYTERY OF CHAMPLAIN—None.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDONDERRY—The Rev. Amzi Benedict, and Rev. Henry Blatchford.

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY—The Rev. Arthur J. Stansbury, and Rev. Mark Tucker. Mr. Ananias Platt, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA—The Rev. Nathaniel S. Prime.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH RIVER—The Rev. John Johnston, and Rev. Joshua Spaulding. Mr. Henry Tice, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON—None.

PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND—The Rev. Samuel Weed.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK—The Rev. Gardiner Spring, D. D., and Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D. Mr. Zachariah Lewis, and Mr. Isaac Sayre, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF JERSEY—The Rev. Samuel Fisher, Rev. John McDowell, D. D., Rev. Edward D. Griffin, D. D., and Rev. William A. McDowell. Mr. Aaron Ward, Mr. Caleb M. Goodwin, Mr. John C. Doughty, and Mr. Peter A. Johnston, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEWTON—The Rev. William C. Brownlee, and Rev. James Campbell. Mr. Isaac Lowder, and Mr. Nathaniel Douglass, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK—The Rev. John Woodhull, D. D., and Rev. Isaac V. Brown. Mr. James Ewing, elder.

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA—The Rev. William Neill, D. D., Rev. Ezra S. Ely, D. D., Rev. William Latta, and Rev. Thomas J. Biggs. Mr. John W. Scott, Mr. Charles Ogden, and Mr. Joseph Montgomery, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF NEW CASTLE—The Rev. J. E. Latta, Rev. Robert Graham, and Rev. E. K. Dare. Mr. James Jackson, and Mr. Jacob Belville, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—The Rev. John Glendy, D. D., and Rev. Elias Harrison. Mr. Elias B. Caldwell, and Mr. Thomas Sanford, elders.

PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE—The Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D., Rev. Henry R. Wilson, and Rev. David Elliott.

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON—The Rev. John Coulter, and Rev. James S. Woods.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND—None.

PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE—The Rev. William Wylie.

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO—None.

PRESBYTERY OF WASHINGTON, (Pa.)—Rev. Andrew Wylie.

PRESBYTERY OF STEUBENVILLE—None.

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE—The Rev. Amos Chase

PRESBYTERY OF HARTFORD—The Rev. James Wright.
PRESBYTERY OF GRAND RIVER—The Rev. Luther Humphrey.
PRESBYTERY OF PORTAGE—The Rev. Benjamin Finn.
PRESBYTERY OF WINCHESTER—None.
PRESBYTERY OF LEXINGTON—The Rev. Robert H. Chapman, D. D.
PRESBYTERY OF HANOVER—None.
PRESBYTERY OF ABINGDON—None.
PRESBYTERY OF TRANSYLVANIA—Rev. Thomas Cleland.
PRESBYTERY OF MUHLENBURG—None.
PRESBYTERY OF LOUISVILLE—None.
PRESBYTERY OF LANCASTER—The Rev. Thomas D. Baird.
PRESBYTERY OF WASHINGTON—None.
PRESBYTERY OF MIAMI—The Rev. James Kemper, and Rev. Dyer Burgess.
PRESBYTERY OF RICHLAND—None.
PRESBYTERY OF UNION—None.
PRESBYTERY OF WEST TENNESSEE—None.
PRESBYTERY OF SHILOH—None.
PRESBYTERY OF MISSISSIPPI—None.
PRESBYTERY OF MISSOURI—The Rev. Salmon Giddings.
PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE—The Rev. Joseph Caldwell, D. D.
PRESBYTERY OF FAYETTEVILLE—None.
PRESBYTERY OF CONCORD—None.
PRESBYTERY OF HARMONY—None.
PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH CAROLINA—None.
PRESBYTERY OF HOPEWELL—None.

Of the General Association of Connecticut—The Rev. William L. Strong, Rev. Eliezer E. Fitch, and Rev. Matthew R. Dutton.

Of the General Association of Massachusetts proper—None.

Of the General Convention of Vermont—The Rev. Henry P. Strong.

The Assembly proceeded to elect a Moderator, and Temporary Clerk, and the Rev. John McDowell, D. D., was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Robert Cathcart, D. D., Temporary Clerk.

A commission signed by the Moderator and Clerk of the Presbytery of Hartford, appointing Mr. Daniel W. Lathrop, one of the Standing Committee of the Church in Ellsworth, a commissioner to this Assembly, was read.

A motion was made and seconded, that he be received as a member; after some discussion, the subject of the motion was committed to Dr. Romeyn, Messrs. Wisner, and Elias B. Caldwell, who were directed to report to the Assembly to-morrow morning.

The Rev. Matthew G. Wallace, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Miami, the Rev. Matthew Brown, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Ohio, and the Rev. Daniel Higgins, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Bath, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

Mr. George W. Phillips, a ruling elder, from the Presbytery of Cayuga, appeared in the Assembly, without a commission, but sufficient testimony being received that he had been duly chosen a commissioner, he was admitted as a member, and took his seat accordingly.

A letter was received from Dr. Janeway, stating that the Trustees of the Second Church offered to this Assembly, to hold their sessions in a large and convenient room in their session house, lately built by said Trustees.

The Assembly accepted the kind and liberal offer, and agreed, when they do adjourn, to adjourn to meet in said room.

The minutes of the last Assembly were in part read.

The Rev. Messrs. Smith, Stansbury, Johnston, William Latta, William

Wylie, Cleland, Fitch, Giddings, and Kemper, and the Rev. Drs. Caldwell, and Chapman, and Messrs. Linklaen, Thomas Doughty, and Sandford, were appointed a Committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet in the lecture room belonging to this church, to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, and afterwards on their own adjournments.

Drs. Woodhull and Caldwell, the Rev. Andrew Wylie, and Messrs. Lewis and Scott, were appointed a Judicial Committee.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning, to meet in the room to which the Assembly has agreed to adjourn. Concluded with prayer.

*May 19th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Dr. Rice's commission was handed in and read, and Dr. Rice being present took his seat as a member.

The Rev. Ashbel G. Fairchild, commissioner from the Presbytery of Redstone, and Mr. Adam Millspaugh, ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of Hudson, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The committee to which was referred the motion relative to Mr. Lathrop, reported, and their report was read, and several amendments having been proposed, the subject, after a discussion of considerable length, was recommitted to the same committee, increased by the addition of Drs. Rice, Spring, and Neill, and the Rev. Matthew R. Dutton, and the committee was directed to report to the Assembly as soon as practicable.

Mr. Biggs obtained leave of absence till to-morrow morning.

The reading of the minutes of the last Assembly was resumed and finished.

*Resolved*, That a free conversation on the state of religion be the order of the day for Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly, and such persons as may choose to unite with them, will spend a part of next Wednesday evening in special prayer and other religious exercises, and that Drs. Neill, Spring, and Chapman, be a committee to make arrangements for the evening, and to designate persons to lead in the exercises.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Blatchford, E. Harrison, and Ogden, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva.

That Messrs. Campbell, Mills, and Jackson, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Albany.

That Messrs. Matthew Brown, Biggs, and Platt, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey.

That Messrs. Wallace, Fisher, and Green, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia.

That Messrs. Spalding, Cleland, and Sayre, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

That Messrs. Baird, Parker, and Ward, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia.

That Messrs. Wright, Weed, and Belville, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky.

That Messrs. Woodruff, Burgess, and Tice, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina.

That Messrs. Brownlee, Benedict, and Montgomery, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Tennessee.

That Dr. E. S. Ely, and Messrs. Isaac V. Brown, and L. Ward, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio.

That Messrs. W. A. McDowell, Gale, and Robinson, be a committee to examine the records of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia.

Messrs. Isaac V. Brown and Montgomery were appointed a committee to receive an account of the distance travelled by the commissioners in coming to the Assembly, and to make a distribution of the Commissioners' Fund, agreeably to a standing rule on the subject.

The receiving of the Synodical and Presbyterial reports, was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed to procure the printing of four thousand copies of a Digest of the proceedings and acts of the General Assembly, reported, and their report being read, was referred to Drs. Rice, Romeyn, and Mr. Fisher.

The hearing of reports from the Presbyteries on the education of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, was made the order of the day for this afternoon.

The Rev. J. H. Turner, and the Rev. Henry Axtell, delegates appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Association of Connecticut and Massachusetts proper, reported that they had attended at the times and places appointed.

Mr. Turner stated in his report that he allowed the milage due for his attendance, to be given to the General Assembly's funds, for the education of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry.

The above mentioned delegates having forwarded separate reports, it was,

*Resolved*, That the reports hereafter be made by the delegation.

The following communication was received and read, viz:

*To the Moderator of the General Assembly*,

Sir—it is my official duty to solicit the approbation of the General Assembly to the following alteration in the Constitution of the United Foreign Missionary Society. In Article III, strike out the words, "Corresponding Secretary" and insert the words, "A Secretary for foreign Correspondence, and a Secretary for Domestic Correspondence."

You will please submit this amendment to the General Assembly, and believe me very respectfully, your obedient servant, Z. Lewis.

*Rec. Sec. of the U. F. M, Soc'y.*

The proposed alteration mentioned in the foregoing communication, was unanimously approved by the Assembly.

The overture on the subject of enlarging the system of Psalmody, referred by the last Assembly to this Assembly, was committed to Drs. Caldwell, and Romeyn, and Mr. Andrew Wylie.

*Resolved*, That it be the duty of the Stated Clerk hereafter to report to the several Presbyteries the names of the Commissioners who at the calling of the roll at the close of the Assembly may appear to have left the Assembly without permission.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, Drs. Janeway, Dr. Ely, and Mr. Potts, were appointed a committee to select extracts from the minutes of this Assembly proper to be printed.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. Zephaniah S. Moore, D. D., delegate from the General Association of Massachusetts proper; the Rev. Ebenezer Washburn, commissioner from the Presbytery of Richland; the Rev. Moses Hoge, D. D., commissioner from the Presbytery of Hanover; the Rev. Obadiah Jennings, commissioner from the Presbytery of Steubenville; Mr. Joseph J. Gillies, ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of New Castle; and the Rev. John Blair Hoge, commissioner from the Presbytery of Winchester, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The commissioners appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to confer with commissioners from the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, on the subject of a brotherly correspondence between the two churches, made a report which being read was ordered to lie on the table.

An attested extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Fayetteville on the subject of enlarging the system of Psalmody, was received, and being read was referred to the committee that had been appointed to take the subject into consideration.

It being the order of the day for this afternoon, reports were received from the Presbyteries on the subject of educating poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry, and Messrs. Prime and Fairchild were appointed a committee to prepare a statement, exhibiting a general view of the reports received, and the decisions of the Assembly upon them severally.

Rev. Andrew Rawson, a delegate appointed by the last Assembly, to attend the General Association of New Hampshire, and the General Convention of Vermont, reported that he had attended agreeably to his appointment.

Mr. Campbell obtained leave of absence till Monday morning.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Rev. Abraham Luce, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Long Island, and Rev. Ezekiel S. Chapman, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Ontario, appeared in the Assembly, and, their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

Messrs. Prime and J. E. Latta obtained leave of absence after 11 o'clock this morning till Monday morning.

Messrs. John Johnson and Dare were appointed a committee to make an arrangement of the Presbyteries and members mentioned in the roll of the Assembly, arranging the former in geographical order, and the latter according to seniority.

An attested communication on the subject of Psalmody, from the Presbytery of Fayetteville, and also a letter on the same subject, signed Lincoln and Edmunds, were received, and being read, were committed to the committee that had been appointed to take the subject into consideration.

A letter addressed to Dr. Neill, containing a communication from the General Association of Massachusetts proper, on the subject of distributing the printed extracts of minutes of that body, and the respective ecclesiastical bodies connected with it, was received, and being read, the subject was referred to Dr. Hoge, Dr. Moore, and Mr. Spalding, to report on the subject to the Assembly.

The committee to which was referred the case of Mr. Lathrop, reported, and their report being read, was, without opposition, adopted, and is as follows, viz:

Whereas, a conventional agreement was entered into with the General Association of Connecticut by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the year one thousand eight hundred and one, for the purpose of preventing alienation, and promoting harmony in those new settlements which are composed of persons adhering to both those bodies:

And whereas, in the said agreement it is provided, that in a church composed in part of Congregationalists and in part of Presbyteries, the church may choose a standing committee for the exercise of discipline; and, moreover, that the standing committee of any church may depute one of their body to attend the Presbytery, and that the person so deputed may have the same right to sit and act in Presbytery as a ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church:

And, moreover, as in the mixed state of Christian society, contemplated in the agreement aforesaid, Presbyteries have sometimes appointed members of standing committees so admitted into their body as commissioners to represent them in General Assembly; Therefore,

*Resolved*, In order to carry into effect the friendly object of the above agreement, that Daniel W. Lathrop be admitted as a member of this Assembly.

*Resolved*, That it be affectionately recommended to the brethren who compose mixed societies of this kind, so far as expediency will allow, to conform to the letter of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in making their appointments and organizing their congregations.

It being the order of the day for this forenoon, the Synodical and Presbyterial reports were received, and committed to Messrs. William A. McDowell and Tucker, who were directed to examine them, and read to the Assembly those parts which they may think necessary to be read, and prepare a statement to be transcribed into the Compendious View.

The judicial committee reported an appeal of the Presbytery of Cayuga from the judgment of the Synod of Geneva, in the case of Mr. Joseph Sheldon.

After hearing the minutes in this case, a motion was made to sustain the appeal, which was lost.

A motion to affirm the decision of the Synod in the case, was then made, and the question being taken, was determined in the affirmative.

A letter addressed to Dr. Neill, containing a communication from the General Association of New Hampshire, accompanied with thirty copies of the printed extracts from their minutes for this body, and requesting an additional number of copies of our extracts, was received, and being read, was referred to the committee on the communication from Massachusetts preper.

Mr. Levi Ward, a ruling elder, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The report of the commissioners appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, to confer with commissioners from the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, on the subject of brotherly correspondence between the two churches, which had been ordered to lie on the table, was called up and read.

After some discussion, a motion was made and carried, to adjourn till 9 o'clock on Monday morning next, to meet in the Sixth Presbyterian Church in this city. Concluded with prayer.

*May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met in the Sixth Presbyterian Church in this city, and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. William McWhir, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Harmony; the Rev. Ezra Fisk, and the Rev. James H. Thomas, commissioners from the Presbytery of Hudson; and the Rev. John B. Patterson, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Northumberland, appeared in the Assembly, and their commissions being read, they took their seats as members.

The unfinished business of Saturday last was taken up, and after some discussion, the farther consideration of it was postponed, to attend to the order of the day.

The Rev. John Glendy, D. D., commissioner from the Presbytery of Baltimore, whose commission was read on the first day of the sessions of this Assembly, appeared and took his seat as a member.

It being the order of the day, the Assembly proceeded to receive communications on the state of religion, and Dr. Rice, and Messrs. Fisher, Stansbury, and H. P. Strong, were appointed a committee to prepare a connected narrative on the subject, and lay it before the Assembly.

After considerable progress made in the business, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P.M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. J. E. Latta resigned his seat to the Rev. Joseph Copes, the principal mentioned in the commission, and Mr. Copes being present took his seat as a member.

The business left unfinished in the morning was resumed and finished.

The hearing of the report of the Board of Missions, and also of the report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning, to meet in the room belonging to the Second Presbyterian Church in this city. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 23*d*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met in the room to which they had adjourned, and was constituted by prayer.

Messrs. Whittlesey and Lowder obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The following communication from the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, was received and read:

*Rev. Sir*—I have the honour of informing the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, now in session, that the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church have adopted, without amendment, all the articles of correspondence reported by the committee appointed by the two churches.

By order of the General Synod.

R. McCartee, Clerk of Synod.

To the Rev the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.
*Philadelphia, May*, 22*d*, 1820.

The Treasurer presented a copy of his annual accounts, as settled and approved by the committee of the Trustees, which was laid on the table for the inspection of the members.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Missions be requested to present the thanks of this Assembly to the Rev. George S. Woodhull, for the missionary sermon, which by their appointment he preached last evening.

*Resolved*, That three copies of the "Assembly's Digest" be given the Assembly, one for the use of the Moderator, and two for the use of the Clerks.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary reported; and their report being read, was committed to Drs. Chapman and Caldwell, and Messrs. Fisk, Brownlee, Harrison, Jennings, Merrill, P. A. Johnston, and Lathrop, to report to the Assembly the particular parts which require their attention.

The following attested extract of the minutes of the Presbytery of Oneida was received and read, viz :

"*Resolved*, That the commissioners to the next General Assembly be directed to ask leave of that body for Presbytery to appropriate their own funds collected for missionary purposes."

The above extract was referred to the committee, to which the report of the Board of Missions had been committed.

The committee to which was referred the subject of the Digest, &c., made by order of the last General Assembly, reported; and their report being read, was adopted, viz :

"That they have taken a general view of the Digest of the acts of the Assembly, and of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, and have examined a considerable part of it, with particular attention; and they have no hesitation in saying, that although the book is not entirely free from inaccuracies, the arrangement and details of the work are such as to render it valuable to Presbyterian families, and almost indispensable to the officers of the Church; and that it ought to be recommended to all such persons to procure for themselves copies. That the price of the work is placed sufficiently low, considering its size and manner of execution. That the committee who prepared the Digest, and caused it to be printed, are the most proper persons to superintend its sale and distribution. That it would be highly inexpedient to authorize the committee to sell the work on credit; and that the proceeds of the work ought to be applied in the manner designated by that committee. Wherefore it is recommended to the Assembly to adopt the following resolutions, viz :

1. That it be, and it is hereby recommended to all bishops, elders, and deacons in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and to heads of families, to procure for themselves the Digest of the Acts of the General Assembly.

2. That the committee who prepared the Digest, and caused it to be printed, be, and they hereby are fully empowered to dispose of the said work at the prices and with the discount mentioned in their report; provided, however, that the said committee be not allowed to make any sales on credit.

3. That the nett proceeds of the sales aforesaid, be paid over to the Treasurer of the Trustees, for the benefit of the Missionary Fund.

The business left unfinished yesterday, viz : the consideration of the report of the commissioners appointed by the last General Assembly to confer with a committee from the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, was resumed, and after considerable discussion, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o' clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The unfinished business of the forenoon, viz : the consideration of the report of the commissioners appointed by the General Assembly to confer with the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, was taken up, and it was moved and seconded to amend the fifth article, which is, "Persons under censure or process of censure, in either church, shall not be received in the other church, while such censure remains, or such process is unfinished," by adding the following clause, viz : "when the offence for which such process shall have been instituted is such as essentially to affect Christian character and doctrine."

After a considerable discussion of the subject, it was

*Resolved*, That the whole report, together with the proposed amendment, be referred to a committee, to confer on the subject with the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church.

The committee appointed are Dr. Romeyn, Dr. Spring, and Mr. Elias B. Caldwell.

An extract from the minutes of the Directors of the Theological Seminary was read, and committed to the committee to which the report of the Board of said Directors had been referred.

A nomination of persons to fill up the vacancies in the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary was made, and the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio, reported, and the book was approved to page —.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

A certificate was received and read, certifying that the Rev. Francis Brown, D. D., had been chosen by the General Association of New Hampshire, a delegate to attend this Assembly. This certificate was accompanied with a letter from Dr. Brown, stating that he was prevented by indisposition from attending.

Col. Linklaen obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly, and relinquished his proportion of the commissioners' fund.

An overture on the subject of the Assembly's expressing their approbation of the measures adopted by the government of the United States for civilizing the Indian tribes, was brought in by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and being read, was recommitted to the same committee.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for the exercises of this evening, reported, and their report was accepted, and laid on the table for the direction of the persons appointed to lead in the exercises.

Dr. Woodhull resigned his seat to the Rev. George S. Woodhull, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Woodhull took his seat as a member.

A report on the memorial and complaint of Mrs. Wherry was brought in by the Judicial Committee, and the consideration of it was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Albany, reported, and the book was approved to page 130.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reported, and the book was approved, excepting the resolution on page 74, disapproving of the proceedings of a Presbytery without assigning the reason.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia, reported that the book had not been forwarded. Whereupon the Stated Clerk was directed to write to the said Synod, inquiring why they had neglected sending on the book for two or more years, and recommending it to them to be more punctual in future.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Geneva, reported, and the book was approved to page 207.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Kentucky, reported that the book had not been forwarded, and the committee was discharged.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of North Carolina, reported, and the book was approved to page 68.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, reported that the book had not been forwarded, and the committee was discharged, and the Stated Clerk was ordered to write to that Synod, directing them to forward their records to the next General Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Tennessee, reported that the book had not been forwarded, and the committee was discharged.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, reported, and the book was approved to page 445.

It being the order of the day for this morning, the election was held for Directors of the Theological Seminary; the ballots being taken, were committed to Messrs. H. R. Wilson, John B. Hoge, and George S. Woodhull, to read them, and report to the Assembly the number of votes given for the several candidates.

This committee reported, and from their report it appeared that the following persons were duly elected Directors of the Theological Seminary for three years, viz: Dr. Blatchford, the Rev. Messrs. John Johnston, Francis Herron, David Comfort, John E. Latta, Robert G. Wilson, D. D., and Joseph Caldwell, D. D., ministers; and Messrs. Divie Bethune, Robert Lenox, and Alexander Henry, elders.

The committee appointed to make a statement to the Assembly of the attention which the several Presbyteries had paid to the education of poor and pious youth, as determined by the votes which had been taken on the subject, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, as follows:

That the Presbyteries of Ontario, Cayuga, Geneva, Bath, Oneida, Onondaga, Columbia, Albany, Londonderry, North River, Hudson, Newton, New York, Long Island, Jersey, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, New Castle, Baltimore, Redstone, Erie, Portage, Lancaster, Grand River, Ohio, Hanover, Lexington, Transylvania, Orange, Miami, Steubenville, Winchester, Fayetteville, Washington, (Pa.,) and Northumberland, have complied with the rule of the Assembly.

That the Presbyteries of Niagara, Rochester, St. Lawrence, Carlisle, Huntingdon, Hartford, and Missouri, had not complied, but having offered satisfactory reasons, were excused.

And that no report had been received from the Presbyteries of Genessee, Otsego, Champlain, Richland, Harmony, Washington, (O.,) and Abingdon.

The committee further report, that from all the communications which have been received, it appears that there are sixty-seven young men, in different stages of education, under the care of the several Presbyteries.

*Resolved*, That no election be held this year for Trustees of the General Assembly.

The agents appointed by the last Assembly to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary were called upon to report, and reports from several of them were received and committed to Messrs. Elliott and Blatchford, who were directed to prepare a statement of the result of their agency, and report it to the Assembly.

The committee to which the report of the Board of Missions was referred, reported in part, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the General Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of one hundred and eighty-seven dollars, being the amount of money borrowed and advanced to Mr. Samuel Davies, who had been, agreeably to the authority given them by the last Assembly, appointed an agent to solicit donations for the Theological Seminary.

The connected narrative of the state of religion was submitted to the Assembly, and after it had been read throughout, it was agreed that it be read by paragraphs, and it was in part read by paragraphs.

The committee appointed to confer with the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, on the subject of a correspondence between them and this Assembly, reported the following communication:

*General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, May 24th*, 1820.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That as the Synod have adopted the whole of the articles reported by the commissioners, and that the General Assembly have not rejected any of them, there does not appear to be any ground of conference in the manner proposed, and therefore the appointment of a committee for that purpose is respectfully declined.

By order of General Synod, ROBERT McCARTEE, *Clerk*.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The Rev. William R. Gould, the principal mentioned in Mr. Whittlesey's commission, appeared in the Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

Mr. Graham resigned his seat to Mr. J. E. Latta, who had been appointed an alternate to occupy the place of any of the commissioners appointed by the Presbytery of New Castle, and Mr. Latta took his seat as a member.

The reading of the narrative of the state of religion by paragraphs, was resumed and finished.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 25*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The committee appointed to report the result of the agency of the different agents for the collection of money for the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That from the greater part of the agents no reports have been received. And that the following sums have been collected for the contingent fund, viz:

By Rev. John Johnston for professorship proposed to be endowed by the Synod of New York and New Jersey, $53.00. By Rev. John Johnston for contingent fund, 20.00. By Rev. E. Fisk on subscription, about 300.00. By a few individuals in the congregation in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, for the endowment of a professorship in the Theological Seminary, 155.00. By Dr. Neill for the permanent fund, 140.00. By Rev. J. E. Latta on old subscription, 9.00. By Rev. James Patterson from U. W. Conococheague, 25.50. By Messrs. Blatchford and Chester from New York, 520.00. By Rev. J. Coulter on old subscription, 6.00. By the Presbytery of Harmony on old subscription, 20.00. By Dr. McDowell from Capt. Whitehead, from the Presbytery of Harmony, 100.00. By ditto on new subscription, from the Presbytery of Harmony, 20.00. By Presbytery of Northumberland on Mr. Dunham's subscription, 10.00.

The religious exercises assigned for last evening were performed in the Sixth Presbyterian Church in this city, and the meeting was large, attentive, and solemn.

The report of the committee appointed to confer with the Synod of the

Associate Reformed Church, was taken up, and a motion was made and seconded, to adopt the proposed amendment to the fifth article, and after a long discussion the amendment was lost.

The sixth and seventh articles were then read and approved, and while the question for adopting the whole of the articles was under discussion, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. Samuel Holcomb, a ruling elder, commissioner from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, whose commission had been before read, appeared in the Assembly, and took his seat as a member.

Messrs. Brownlee and Douglass obtained leave of absence after this afternoon, during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of collecting information of the doctrine and discipline, and general state of the Protestant churches in Europe, and into the expediency of establishing a communication with the judicatories of said churches, or any of them. reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

"That having considered the subject, they are of the opinion that a correspondence with the Protestant churches of Europe might be productive of important advantages, but that in the present state of those churches, such correspondence can more advantageously be carried on by individuals connected with the General Assembly, and members of foreign churches, than by the judicatories of those churches and this body."

And the committee were discharged.

The narrative of the state of religion was again submitted to the Assembly, and after several amendments had been made, it was ordered that one thousand copies of it be printed, and that the Stated Clerk superintend the printing.

The consideration of the plan of a brotherly correspondence between this Assembly and the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, was resumed, and after a full discussion, the plan was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

I. The churches are to remain entirely separate and independent.

II. Any member of either church may be received to communion in the other, on producing to the proper church officers, sufficient evidence of a good and regular standing in the church with which he is connected.

III. It shall be permitted to the competent church officers in any congregation, settled or vacant, of either church, to invite to preach in their pulpit, any minister, or probationer, who is in good standing in either of the said churches, and who preaches in their purity the great doctrines of the gospel as they are stated in their common Confession of Faith, and have generally been received and taught in the Reformed churches. But it shall be entirely optional to give or withhold such invitation, nor shall it be esteemed offensive or unkind, if the invitation be withheld.

IV. A vacant congregation shall be at liberty to call a minister from either of the churches, according to the order established in that church from which he may be called, he conforming himself to the order of the church to which he shall be called. And in case of a congregation being formed of people from both, it shall be at liberty to put itself under the care of either at its option.

V. Persons under censure, or process of censure, in either church, shall not be received in the other church while such censure remains, or such process is unfinished.

VI. Any Presbytery or Synod not formed by delegation of either church, may invite the regular members of any similar judicatory of the other church to sit as corresponding members; but should the invitation not be deemed expedient, the withholding of it shall not be considered as unkind or offensive.

VII. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, shall each appoint one minister and one elder, with an alternate of each, to sit in these judicatories respectively, with the privilege of deliberating on all subjects that may come before them, but not of voting on any.

*Resolved*, That to carry into effect the last article of this report, this committee of conference recommend to the General Assembly and the General Synod, to appoint their delegates the year preceding.

Mr. Campbell resigned his seat to the Rev. Jacob Kirkpatrick, the alternate mentioned in their commission, and Mr. Kirkpatrick took his seat as a member.

Messrs. Jackson and Belville obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 26th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

A communication from the Trustees of the Assembly relating to the bequest of President Wheelock, was received, and being read, was committed to Messrs. John Johnston, Lewis, and Elias B. Caldwell, to confer with the Trustees on the subject.

A communication from the Trustees of the Assembly relative to the institution of a fund to be devoted to the christianizing of the Jews, was also received, and being read, was committed to Drs. Griffin and Ely, and Mr. Lewis.

*Resolved*, That in approbation of the laborious services of the committee on the "Digest," a copy of that work, elegantly bound, be presented to each one of them.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Ohio, reported, and the book was approved to page 113.

The Rev. Lemuel F. Leake, alternate to Mr. Brownlee, and Mr. Peter Cline, alternate to Mr. Lowder, appeared in the Assembly, and took their seats.

The committee to which the report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary had been referred, reported, and their report being read and amended in part, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee to which was referred the report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That this report of the Board of Directors be approved.

2. *Resolved*, That the sum of four thousand dollars, in addition to the unexpended balance of seven hundred and fifty-two dollars and five and one-half cents, of the appropriation of last year, be appropriated to defray the expenses of the Seminary for the current year.

3. *Resolved*, That the professors be authorized to employ an assistant teacher of the original languages of Scripture, until the meeting of the next General Assembly; provided a suitable person can be obtained at a salary consistent with the funds of the Seminary, and provided also that such salary does not exceed the sum of four hundred dollars.

4. *Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the congregations and Presbyteries under the care of the Assembly, to pay prompt and special regard to the recommendation of the last Assembly respecting an annual collection for the contingent fund of the Theological Seminary, and that the moneys thus collected be transmitted without delay to Mr. Isaac Snowden, No. 85 Arch street, Philadelphia, Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly.

5. *Resolved*, That further to replenish the funds of the Seminary the following measures be adopted:

I. That the Rev. Dr. Green, and the Rev. G. S. Woodhull, be authorized to employ two or more agents to solicit contributions during the present year, and that the committee be authorized to draw on the Treasurer to defray the expenses of the agents.

II. That subscription papers for twenty-five cents a year, for the term of five years, be opened in each congregation in those parts of the country where it may be deemed expedient, and that it be particularly recommended to the notice of communicants, and that the moneys thus raised be paid into the permanent fund.

III. That boxes be put up in churches, or other places, for the purpose of obtaining contributions, where this mode may be most acceptable.

IV. That Dollar Societies be still encouraged.

V. That a circular letter respecting the state of the Seminary, be addressed by this Assembly to all the churches under their care.

6. *Resolved*, That, as the last resort, the Board of Directors be authorized to borrow such sums as may be necessary to pay the salaries of the Professors for the present year, but in no case to borrow from the permanent fund.

Messrs. Stansbury, Jennings, and Elias B. Caldwell, were appointed a committee to prepare a draught of a circular letter, respecting the state of the Theological Seminary, to be addressed by this Assembly to all the churches under their care.

Mr. Isaac V. Brown resigned his seat to Dr. Alexander, the principal mentioned in their commission, and Dr. Alexander took his seat as a member.

Mr. Prime was appointed to take Mr. Brown's place in the committee to which the distribution of the Commissioners' Fund had been referred.

The committee to which the communication of Mr. Thomas Lindsay, on the subject of the conversion of the Jews, was referred, proposed the following resolutions, which were adopted, viz:

1. That the Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly be, and hereby is authorized to invest in any safe and productive funds, the sum of one hundred and twenty-one dollars and sixty cents, paid to him by Mr. Lindsay, to be held subject to the order of the Assembly for any purpose consistent with the will of the donor.

2. That the Stated Clerk be, and hereby is directed to transmit to Mr. Thomas Lindsay a copy of these resolutions, and to express to him the thanks of this Assembly for his liberal and benevolent donation.

The committee to whom was referred the request of the Presbytery of Oneida, that they be permitted to appropriate their own funds collected for missionary purposes, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted, viz:

That the Presbytery of Oneida be again referred to the plan proposed by the Board of Missions, and approved by this Assembly, with instructions to conform to the same on the subject of their request.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, reported, and the book was approved to page 46.

The committee to which the overture on the subject of the Assembly's expressing their approbation of the measures adopted by the government of the United States for civilizing the Indian tribes, was referred reported, and, their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

*Resolved*, That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States are highly gratified in observing the benevolent exertions of the General Government to promote the civilization of the Indian tribes within its terrritories by the support of schools, and by introducing among them the arts of social life. The Assembly feel confident that the General Government, by adopting these measures, act in accordance with the wishes of a large proportion of the American people.

The Assembly sincerely pray that the Supreme Being may bless these exertions to reclaim the aborigines of our continent from the darkness and ferocity of their savage state, to the privileges and enjoyments of Christian civilization.

*Resolved*, That an attested copy of the foregoing resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, signed by the Moderator and Clerks of this Assembly.

Mr. Luce obtained leave of absence till Tuesday morning, and Mr. Fairchild during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 27th, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Messrs. Woodhull, Wilson, William Latta, Copes, and Wisner, obtained leave of absence after 11 o'clock, till Monday morning; and Mr. Ewing, during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee to revise the Forms of Government and Process, reported, and their report being read, was accepted, and is as follows, viz:

That since the meeting of the last Assembly, they have reviewed with care the printed overture sent down to the Presbyteries by that Assembly. In this review they have been aided by suggestions and proposed alterations from fourteen Presbyteries and twelve individuals. While, however, the committee, in various parts of their labour, have been in no small degree assisted by these communications, their duties have also been thereby rendered more perplexing and arduous.

In endeavouring to adjust points of great delicacy and importance in the government and discipline of the Church, they have often found it difficult to satisfy their own minds; but it has been in many cases far more difficult, not to say sometimes wholly impracticable, to combine the opposite views, and to conciliate the diversified or contradictory wishes of Presbyteries and individuals.

In these circumstances, the committee have done the best in their power, and have made such modifications of their former report as are in their view best adapted to unite the opinions and promote the order and harmony of the whole Church. These modifications are now most respectfully submitted to this Assembly.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the printed overture, containing an alteration of the Forms of Government and Process as revised and modified, and made considerable progress in reading and amending it.

A nomination was made for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, and also the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, with which the Assembly had lately formed a correspondence, and the election was made the order of the day for Monday morning next.

*Resolved*, That the same rules be adopted for electing delegates to the Synod which had been adopted for electing delegates to the Associations.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, on Monday morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 29th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

It being the order of the day for this morning, an election was held for delegates to attend the several Associations connected with this Assembly, and the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church. The ballots were taken and committed to Messrs. Crane, Fenn, and James H. Thomas, to count the votes, and report to the Assembly the names of the persons chosen delegates.

This committee reported, and their report being read, the following persons were declared duly chosen, viz:

Rev. Obadiah Jennings, Dr. Edward D. Griffin, and Rev. Salmon Giddings, delegates to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Connecticut; Mr. Jennings and Dr. Griffin, delegates to attend the next meeting of the General Association of Massachusetts proper; and Mr. Salmon Giddings was appointed alternate to either of the delegates who may fail to attend.

The Rev. Ezra Fisk was appointed a delegate to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New Hampshire, and the General Convention of Vermont; and the Rev. Elkanah K. Dare was appointed his alternate.

The Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., and Mr. Elias B. Caldwell, ruling elder, were appointed delegates to attend the next meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, and the Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., and Mr. Divie Bethune, ruling elder, were appointed their alternates.

The following committees were appointed to provide supplies for the delegates during their attention to their delegations, viz:

Rev. Matthew Brown, to appoint supplies for the pulpit of Mr. Jennings, for four Sabbaths.

Rev. Drs. Richards and Hillyer, to appoint supplies for Dr. Griffin's pulpit, for two Sabbaths.

Rev. Messrs. Methuselah Baldwin and Charles Cummins, to appoint supplies for Mr. Fisk's pulpit, the number of Sabbaths to be determined by the Presbytery of which Mr. Fisk is a member.

Dr. Caldwell obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Dr. Chapman was appointed chairman of the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and Rev. Andrew Wylie chairman of the Judicial Committee; Dr. Caldwell having been chairman of these committees.

The consideration of the proposed alterations of the Forms of Government and Process was resumed, and considerable progress was made in the business.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

*Resolved*, That six copies of the Digest be given for the use of the theological students, to be deposited in the library of the Theological Seminary at Princeton.

Messrs. Higgins, Wisner, and Crane, members of the Synod of Geneva, and Messrs. Chase, Jennings, and Fenn, of the Synod of Pittsburgh, were appointed a committee to report to the Assembly the boundary line proper to be fixed between said Synods.

The consideration of the proposed alterations in the Forms of Government and Process was again resumed, and considerable progress was made in the business.

Mr. Dare obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May* 30*th*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee appointed to arrange the Synods and Presbyteries according to their geographical situation, and the members of the Assembly according to their seniority, reported, and their report being read, was accepted, and it was directed that the committee appointed to select the extracts from the minutes proper to be printed, arrange the Presbyteries, and names of the members, according to this report.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of sixty-eight dollars and seventy cents, to Mr. A. Babbit, due to him for missionary services.

Rev. J. H. Thomas obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The consideration of the proposed alterations in the Forms of Government and Process was resumed, and after considerable progress made in the business, the Assembly

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee to which the Synodical and Presbyterial reports had been referred, submitted their report to the Assembly, and it was accepted, and the Stated Clerk was directed to transcribe it into the Compendious View.

The Assembly were informed that the committee appointed by the last Assembly to confer with a committee of the Trustees of the College at Princeton, relative to the appropriation of certain moneys in the hands of said Trustees, subject to the direction of this Assembly, had performed the duty assigned them.

The Rev. Samuel B. How, and Rev. Jacob Kirkpatrick, were appointed a committee to attend to the appropriation of said moneys for the current year.

Mr. Gould obtained leave of absence after to-morrow morning, during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The consideration of the proposed alterations of the Forms of Government and Process was resumed, and considerable progress was made in the business.

Dr. Spring obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of three dollars and seventy-three cents to Dr.

Miller, being the amount of postage paid by him for letters written to him as a member of the committee appointed by the Assembly to revise the Forms of Government and Process.

The Committee appointed to make a distribution of the Commissioners' Fund, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

That there is due to the commissioners one thousand five hundred and sixteen dollars and forty-five cents, allowing them three and nine and a half tenths of a cent per mile for the distance travelled in coming to the Assembly to defray their travelling expenses.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to give a warrant for the payment of the foregoing sum to the several commissioners, as specified in the report of the committee.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*May 31st, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Mr. William Wylie obtained leave of absence after 11 o'clock this morning, and Messrs. Wisner and George W. Phillips during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The consideration of the report of the committee that had been appointed by a former Assembly to revise the Forms of Government and of Process, was resumed and finished, and the report being amended, was adopted.

The following alterations in the Directory were proposed and submitted to the Assembly, and it was agreed by the Assembly that they be sent to the Presbyteries for their adoption, viz :

Chap. X., Sect. 6, to be altered thus: When any offender has been adjudged to be cut off from the communion of the Church, it is proper that the sentence be publicly pronounced against him.

Second and third paragraphs of Sect. 7, to be altered thus: The minister shall give the church or congregation a short narrative of the several steps which have been taken with respect to their offending brother, and inform them that it has been found necessary to cut him off from the communion ; and shall, in the presence of the church or congregation, pronounce the sentence in the following or like form, viz :

He shall begin by showing the authority, &c., (here the words in the old Directory follow.)

It is expedient that no person be introduced to preach in any of the churches under our care, unless by consent of the Pastor or church Session.

Drs. Rice and Chapman, and Mr. Fisher, were appointed a committee to take into consideration the measures to be adopted for printing the report of the committee that had been approved, relative to the proposed alterations of Forms of Government and Process, and to report on the subject to the Assembly.

A system of rules that had been drawn up by the Committee on Forms of Government and of Process was read, and the consideration of them was referred to the next Assembly.

Messrs. Copes, Gillies, Seth Smith, Parker, Wallace, and Coulter, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter to the churches under the care of the Assembly, soliciting their aid to replenish the funds of the Theological Seminary, reported the draught of a letter, which was read and recommitted to the same committee to be printed ; and it was ordered that it be signed by the Moderator, and that one thousand copies be printed.

The committee appointed to designate the line dividing the Synods of Geneva and Pittsburgh, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

That the line between the states of Pennsylvania and New York, ought to be the dividing line between the Synods of Pittsburgh and Geneva, but that for the accommodation of the Rev. Phineas Camp, and the church or churches under his care, they be permitted (until an intermediate Presbytery be formed) to remain in connection with the Presbytery of Erie, or to unite with the Presbytery of Niagara, as they may think proper.

The memorial and complaint of Mr. Joseph Wherry, in relation to a decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, was taken up, and after the documents in the case had been read, and one of the parties had been heard at some length, the Assembly adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Messrs. Ezekiel I. Chapman, Armstrong, Green, and Merrill, obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

The consideration of the memorial and complaint of Mr. Wherry, relative to a decision of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reversing a decision of the Presbytery of Ohio, which had restored Mr. Wherry to church privileges, was resumed, and the parties were heard at full length.

A motion was made and seconded, that the decision of the Synod be reversed, and the decision of the Presbytery be affirmed; the question being taken on this motion, was determined in the affirmative.

The committee to which was referred a communication from the Rev. William Allen, in relation to a bequest of the late President Wheelock, laid before the Assembly by the Board of Trustees, reported, and their report being read, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

*Resolved,* That the communication be returned to the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly, with directions to take such order on the subject as they shall judge expedient.

The Board of Education reported, and their report being read, was approved, and it was by order of the Assembly put on the files.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

*June* 1*st*, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

Messrs. Jennings and Crane obtained leave of absence during the remaining sessions of this Assembly.

An election was held to fill up the Board of Education agreeably to the Constitution, and the following persons were chosen to constitute one fourth of the Board, and to fill the seats of Dr. Flinn, deceased, and William Trigg, viz:

Of the city of Philadelphia and its vicinity, the Rev. Archibald Alexander. D. D., Rev. Isaac V. Brown, and Mr. Alexander Henry.

Of the Synod of Philadelphia, Mr. William Kirkpatrick, elder.

Of the Synod of Geneva, Rev. Henry Axtell.

Of the Synod of Albany, Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D.

Of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Mr. A. Brown, elder.

Of the Synod of Kentucky, Rev. James Blythe, D. D., and Mr. Andrew McCalla, elder.

Of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, Rev. Moses Waddell, D. D., and Mr. William Leslie, elder.

The committee to whom were referred the subjects of the printing hereafter to be done for the General Assembly; of printing the report of the committee on the revisal of the Constitution of the Church, and the Book of Discipline; and the manner in which the said report is to be received and decided on by the Presbyteries, submitted their report to the General Assembly, which being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"As to the printing to be executed for the General Assembly, it is observed, that this business is of some value, and as the Church enlarges, it may be expected to increase, and of course to be sought as a profitable job. It may therefore, if left to be disposed of by any individual member or servant of the Assembly, afford to him a degree of patronage inconsistent with the genius of our institutions. And often he may be placed in a situation of considerable delicacy, when called on to decide between the conflicting claims of rival competitors. But at the same time it is necessary that there should be some check on the printer, so that he should not be allowed to make any unreasonable charge for services rendered by him: therefore,

*Resolved*, 1. That a printer and distributor be appointed by the General Assembly, to hold his office during the pleasure of the Assembly.

2. That he shall present an account of all work done by him, with the prices annexed, to the Stated Clerk, who shall, if he think the charges reasonable, allow the same, and his certificate shall be equivalent to a warrant on the Treasurer for the amount.

3. But if at any time the Stated Clerk and the printer disagree as to the prices charged for any work, and the matter cannot be so adjusted as to satisfy the judgment of the Stated Clerk, the whole matter shall be referred to the decision of the next General Assembly.

4. That the report of the committee that have revised the Forms of Government and of Process, which has been adopted by the Assembly, be sent to the Presbyteries and be taken up by them as an overture from this Assembly, and that they be required to pass a vote on each chapter, section, and article, and adopt or reject the same.

5. That the Presbyteries be particularly requested to send up an exact copy of the result of their votes in this case to the next General Assembly.

6. That every chapter, section, or article, adopted by a majority of the Presbyteries, shall be considered as a constitutional article, ratified and binding on the whole church.

7. That one thousand copies of the report of the Committee on the Forms of Government and of Process, and also of the proposed alterations in the Directory that had been adopted by the Assembly, be printed under the superintendence of the aforesaid committee, and that the distributing agent be ordered to send by mail, as far as practicable, to the several Presbyteries one copy for each minister.

Mr. William Bradford was appointed printer and distributor.

An overture on the subject of appointing a day of humiliation, thanksgiving, and prayer, was submitted to the Assembly, and adopted, and ordered to be printed.

*Resolved*, That this overture be signed by the Moderator, and that five hundred copies of it be printed.

The committee to which the resolution on the subject of psalmody was committed, the consideration of which had been deferred by the last Assembly to be taken up by this Assembly, reported, and their report being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz:

"That the subject of the resolution, in their opinion, is of such magnitude as to demand the serious attention of this Assembly.

Psalmody has in all ages been considered a most important part of the worship of God. The Church, therefore, has ever been careful to preserve its purity for the edification of her members; whilst they who have departed from the faith once delivered to the saints, have availed themselves of it to accomplish their divisive plans with the best success. Mindful of their duty in this matter, the General Assembly have, from time to time, authorized the use of Rouse's version of the Book of Psalms, Watts's imitation of the Psalms of David, with his three books of Hymns, Barlow's alterations of, and additions to Watts's imitation, and Dwight's revision of Watts, with his additional versifications and collections of hymns, in the churches under their care.

Whilst the committee grant that each of these systems of Psalmody has its excellences, they respectfully recommend that one uniform system of Psalmody be prepared under the direction of the Assembly, for the use of the churches under their care. They believe that the time has come when such a measure may be adopted without offending any of our churches, and with the prospect of complete success.

If they are correct in this belief, of which the Assembly must judge, it appears to them that uniformity in this matter will furnish a strong bond of peace and harmony between the different sections of our church.

The committee further recommend that this uniform system of Psalmody consist of two parts, viz:

I. A compilation of metrical versions of the Book of Psalms, adhering to the order and connection of the same as far as practicable.

In this compilation the preference ought to be given to the authorized versions now in use, so far as the poetry and conformity to the text allow. The committee, in recommending this compilation, disavow any design of committing the Assembly on the difference of opinion which exists about the Book of Psalms. They also wish it to be distinctly understood that they do not disapprove of Watts. But they think that a compilation, such as is recommended, if judiciously executed, will satisfy the friends of Dr. Watts's imitation, and the advocates of the exclusive authority of the Book of Psalms.

II. A copious collection of hymns and spiritual songs from various authors, giving the preference to those now authorized, so far as good taste, sound sense, and enlightened piety admit.

Such a system of Psalmody, the committee think, besides producing harmony among ourselves in this part of public worship, will tend to enlarge that growing disposition among Christians of different denominations, to union of exertions for promoting the kingdom of Christ.

They therefore submit the following resolutions, viz:

1. That a committee be appointed to digest and prepare a uniform system of Psalmody, as recommended in this report; the whole, when prepared agreeably to the views of the committee, to be submitted to the General Assembly for their adoption.

2. That the committee appointed to carry this resolution into effect, be authorized to procure, at the expense of the Assembly, such versions of the Book of Psalms, and such collections of Hymns and Sacred Songs as they may deem necessary."

The Assembly appointed Drs. Romeyn, Alexander, Nott, Blatchford, and Spring, a committee to prepare and digest the system of Psalmody, as recommended in the foregoing report.

The following question from the Presbytery of Washington, Pennsylvania, was overtured, viz: "What is a sufficient publication of the purpose of marriage, according to the second sentence of the sixth section of the eleventh chapter of the Book of Discipline ?"

*Resolved,* That the following be given as an answer to this question, viz: That the Presbyteries are the best judges in the case.

An election of a Board of Missions was held, and the same persons who were elected last year were re-elected, except that Dr. Moses Waddell was chosen in the place of Dr. Flinn, deceased.

A memorial and complaint of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, was laid before the Assembly by the judicial committee, and after the documents in the case had been read, the farther consideration of the subject was postponed till the afternoon.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M. Concluded with prayer.

*4 o'clock, P. M.*

The Assembly met and was constituted by prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

An overture from the Synod of Philadelphia relative to the adoption of a rule, requiring that the Professors and Directors of the Theological Seminary be chosen by a majority of votes, was submitted to the Assembly and read.

After the subject had been for some time discussed, the previous question was called for, and being put in these words, "Shall the main question be now put?" was determined in the negative.

The committee to which the request of the General Association of New Hampshire and Massachusetts proper, relative to the forwarding of printed extracts from the minutes of the General Assembly, submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted, viz:

*Resolved,* That the Stated Clerk be, and he hereby is, directed to transmit seventy-five copies of the printed extracts from the minutes of the General Assembly to the General Association of New Hampshire, and one hundred copies to the General Association of Massachusetts proper, according to the request of these Associations severally.

*Resolved,* That the Stated Clerk also transmit, in addition to those already forwarded, thirty copies of the minutes of the last Assembly to the General Association of New Hampshire, and fifty copies to the General Association of Massachusetts proper, if so many can be spared; or a less number to each body, in proportion to the above numbers.

The consideration of the memorial and complaint of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, was resumed, and the following decision on the subject was adopted, viz:

The General Assembly having heard and maturely considered the complaint of the Session, together with the documents in the case, decided, that on account of the imperfection of the documents presented before them, this Assembly are not prepared to express an opinion as to the correctness of the proceedings of the Synod of Tennessee, in relation to the matters referred to in the memorial of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville; and that as the memorialists themselves declare, that they do not desire that the second congregation in Knoxville be dissolved, it be recommended to the churches in question to live in harmony and peace.

*Resolved,* That the Presbyteries not represented in the Assembly, be published in the printed extracts in the geographical order that had been reported to the Assembly.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of the Permanent Clerk for his services rendered this Assembly, agreeably to the rate fixed by a former Assembly, and for the stationery for their use.

*Resolved,* That the Trustees of the Assembly be instructed to issue a warrant for the payment of thirty dollars and twenty-eight cents to Peter Lesley, for thirteen days' attendance on the Assembly as Janitor, and for articles furnished for their use.

The roll being called agreeably to a standing rule, to ascertain whether any member had left the Assembly without leave, Messrs. Sanford and Elias B. Caldwell were ascertained to have left the Assembly without leave, and the Stated Clerk was directed to give information of this to the Presbyteries which they respectively represented.

*Resolved,* That this Assembly be dissolved, and that another Assembly, chosen in the same manner, be required to meet in the Seventh Presbyterian Church in this city, on the third Thursday of May next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

## SUMMARY FOR 1820.

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Niagara, | 6 | 1 | 18 | 278 | $ 4 |
| Rochester, | 8 | 1 | 11 | 564 | 18 |
| Genessee. No report. | | | | | |
| Ontario, | 12 | — | 10 | 356 | 17 |
| Bath, | 6 | — | 11 | 421 | 6 |
| Geneva, | 17 | 3 | 23 | 1788 | 26 |
| Cayuga, | 20 | 2 | 31 | 2164 | 206 |
| Onondaga, | 20 | 1 | 32 | 2158 | 86 |
| Albany, | 18 | 5 | 24 | 2124 | 460 |
| Columbia, | 13 | 6 | 15 | 1053 | 334 |
| Oneida, | 26 | 2 | 25 | 2513 | 78 |
| Otsego, | 8 | — | 8 | 516 | 257 |
| St Lawrence, | 12 | — | 10 | 143 | — |
| Champlain, | 9 | — | 9 | 198 | 17 |
| Londonderry, | 19 | 12 | 18 | 1140 | 276 |
| Long Island, | 16 | 1 | 14 | 1244 | 175 |
| Hudson, | 14 | — | 22 | 1554 | 154 |
| North River, | 11 | 1 | 18 | 1661 | 217 |
| New York, | 13 | — | 13 | 2079 | 987 |
| Jersey, | 29 | 9 | 31 | 5295 | 349 |
| Newton, | 16 | - | 25 | 1807 | 152 |
| New Brunswick, | 15 | 6 | 15 | 1405 | 197 |
| Philadelphia, | 28 | 5 | 32 | 3904 | 978 |
| New Castle, | 27 | 2 | 51 | 3521 | 208 |
| Baltimore, | 17 | 4 | 11 | 697 | 272 |
| Carlisle, | 22 | 1 | 33 | 2999 | 334 |
| Huntingdon, | 12 | — | 29 | 1511 | 64 |
| Northumberland, | 7 | — | 15 | 1039 | — |
| Redstone, | 21 | — | 42 | 916 | 107 |
| Ohio, | 11 | 2 | 16 | 1308 | 223 |
| Erie, | 13 | — | 51 | 740 | 73 |
| Hartford, | 9 | 2 | 20 | 1273 | 23 |
| Grand River, | 12 | 1 | 24 | 572 | 20 |
| Portage, | 7 | 1 | 30 | 509 | 183 |
| Steubenville, | 8 | 1 | 12 | 509 | 204 |
| Washington, | 10 | 1 | 18 | 1553 | 561 |
| Hanover, | 16 | 8 | 25 | 831 | 646 |
| Lexington, | 16 | — | 28 | 1606 | 802 |
| Winchester, | 13 | 3 | 23 | 824 | 740 |
| Abingdon. No report. | | | | | |
| Washington, | 10 | 1 | 26 | 1563 | 301 |
| Lancaster, | 15 | — | 36 | 1242 | 247 |
| Miami, | 16 | 2 | 38 | 1528 | 369 |
| Richland, | 7 | — | 26 | 799 | 105 |
| Union, | 9 | 4 | 20 | 622 | 75 |
| West Tennessee, | 8 | 1 | 18 | 843 | — |

| *Presbyteries.* | *Ministers.* | *Licentiates.* | *Churches.* | *Communicants.* | *Collections.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shiloh, | 7 | — | 12 | 312 | $ 62 |
| Missouri, | 5 | — | 11 | 243 | 34 |
| Orange, | 10 | 6 | 22 | 191 | 269 |
| Concord, | 16 | 1 | 58 | 3366 | 36 |
| Fayetteville, | 12 | — | 32 | 2284 | 185 |
| South Carolina, | 13 | 6 | 29 | 797 | 55 |
| Hopewell, | 7 | 1 | 16 | 340 | — |
| Harmony, | 15 | 5 | 22 | 445 | — |
| West Lexington, | 11 | — | 28 | 1299 | 150 |
| Transylvania, | 9 | — | 17 | 501 | 215 |
| Muhlenburg, | 4 | — | 20 | 509 | 1167 |
| Louisville, | 10 | — | 25 | 439 | 91 |
| Mississippi. No report. | | | | | |
| Total, | 741 | 108 | 1299 | 72,096 | $12,861 |

In this year there were in connection with the Church 11 *Synods*, viz: Geneva, Albany, New York and New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Virginia, Ohio, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, and Kentucky; embracing 58 *Presbyteries.* The communicants added to the Church during the year amounted to 8021. The baptisms during the year amounted to 10,403. There were 99 candidates for the ministry. The money was collected for different objects, viz: Presbyterial, Educational, Missionary, Commissioners' and Theological Seminary funds. A very large proportion of the congregations in this and preceding years made no report, and some entire Presbyteries.

# INDEX.

AMUSEMENTS.
An overture relating to fashionable amusements committed, 684; committee report that the subject should be noticed in the pastoral letter, 685.
APPEALS.
An overture (from the Rev. Matthew Wilson) relating to the scruples which a Presbytery may have in practising according to the direction of the Book on Appeals; and the Assembly's answer to it, 11.
The forfeiture to which an appellant is subjected in failing to appear to prosecute his appeal, 39. Cases of such forfeiture, 45 and 481.
The Synod of Virginia censure Presbytery of Lexington for permitting an appeal to go directly from them to the General Assembly, and the Assembly do not sustain the censure, 688.

B.

BAPTISM.
*Valid Baptism.*—Is that valid administered by a Socinian minister? 546; this answered in the negative, 549.
Is that valid administered by an excommunicated minister? the consideration postponed, 601.
*Re-Baptism.*—Is it proper in a given case? 25. Reply to this, 26.
*Qualifications.*—(1) May baptism be administered to children of slaves on the profession of masters? and answered, 613 and 617. (2) May children of parents who habitually neglect the Lord's supper, be baptized? and the answer, 618. (3) Should parents offering their children be required to enter into an explicit engagement to fulfil their duties? and the answer, 89. (4) What constitutes a credible profession in their offering their children for baptism? and the answer, 91.
*Baptized Children.*—Action respecting 431. Their spiritual officers required to give them particular instruction, 691.
*Discipline of baptized persons.*—Are such persons liable to discipline? 171, 468, 475, 480, 509, 543, 551, 567, 578, 589.
*Scruples on Baptism.*—Decided in a given case that scruples on the subject of infant baptism were no bar to communion, 145 and 149.
BEQUESTS.
That of James Lesley for missionary purposes, 51. That of Azariah Horton, 90.
BIBLES.
An inquiry instituted as to the destitution of the people in regard to the Bible, 526 and 545. Proposition for distributing the Bible, 196.
An overture postponed for forming a general Bible Society, 573.
Bible classes, the formation of them recommended, 627.
Act relating to Collins' edition of the Bible, 12, 25, 41.

BOOKS.
The Assembly from an early period adopted measures for the purchase and distribution of religious books. The following are some of the references to this subject, 97, 259, 297, 307, 332, 346, 361, 375, 478.
The Assembly decline to give publishers a recommendation of certain books, 475.

C.

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.
From an early period the subject of educating young men for the ministry was made the topic of discussion and inquiry, e. g. 196.
*Qualifications*—Proposition to raise their qualifications, 181.
*Time of Study*—Overture respecting the extension of the time of study, 60. Remonstrance of the Synod of New York and New Jersey against the censure of Assembly on them for requiring three years' study, and the decision, 72. Urgent recommendation that candidates should complete full courses, 660, 661.
*Funds for Education*, 399, 418, 464, &c., &c. Surplus funds of Presbyteries, how to be appropriated, 640, 644.
*Number of Candidates*—For example, in 1816, there were 35 indigent young men supported; in 1819, there were 59; in 1820, there were 67, &c.
CATECHISM.
The preparation of one for children ordered, 259. The committee on this subject subsequently discharged, 276.
The preparation of two additional catechetical systems declined, 403.
Order for printing 2000 of Shorter Catechism, 565.
CATECHISTS.
Their appointment sanctioned, from which some dissent, 301.
A decision against appointing them, 363.
CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.
Suggested that Trustees of the General Assembly should be incorporated, 102. Committee on the subject report progress, 116, same subject, 143, The Act of Incorporation, 173. (See Trustees.)
CHURCHES.
Transfer of churches from one Presbytery to another, 71, 85, 86, 88, 171, 299.
CHURCH MEMBERS.
Are they disciplinable for withdrawing and joining another denomination? 638, this question discussed and dismissed, 658.
CLERKS.
Of the Assembly. Stated one, appointed, with duties, &c., 13, &c. Permanent one appointed, 235.
Duties of Clerks, 377, 424.
Persons chosen for clerks need not be members of Assembly, 64.
COLLEGE.
Princeton. Request for aid to rebuild their edifice, 247. The provision made in this institution for aiding theological students, 362
COLONIZATION.
Colonization in Africa recommended, 693, 710.
COMMERCIAL EMBARRASSMENTS in 1819.
The Assembly's opinion of their true origin, 715.
COMMISSIONS.
First examined by a committee, 22. Ordered to be read in the Assembly, 31. Defective ones, 352.

COMMISSIONERS—TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
Evidence of their appointment in case of the absence of their commissions, 34.
Each Presbytery required to pay its own commissioners, 59.
Rule respecting milage, 687.
Ratio of representation altered, 691, 700.
Delinquent commissioners to be reported to their Presbyteries, 233.
Commissioners should come prepared to stay the whole time of meeting, 261.
COMMITTEE MAN.
Mr. Lathrop appointed to attend the General Assembly as a member of the standing committee of a church formed on the Plan of Union, 721, 722.
The principle recognized by the Assembly, and Mr. Lathrop admitted, 724.
COMMUNION.
Occasional, a question respecting it in relation to the Methodists, 544, 553, finally postponed, 573.
*Terms of Communion.*—Is a belief in the doctrine of universal salvation a bar to communion? with affirmative answer, 60. Same subject, 86, 87.
Whether scruples on the subject of infant baptism should be a bar to communion, decided negatively in a given case, 145, 149.
CONSTITUTION—OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
*Early acts* relative to its publication and sale, 6, 9, 13, 33, 49, 58, &c.
*Editions*, unauthorized ones condemned, 282. Request made to let booksellers publish it without restriction of copy-right, and refused, 639, 647.
*Wide circulation.*—Measures adopted for its wide circulation, 613, 626, 638.
*Various amendments.*
Chapter relating to church censures revised, 9. Inquiry on same chapter, answered, 25.
Overture to Presbyteries for altering "standing rules" into "constitutional rules," in chap. xii. sec. 6, 180. Report of Presbyteries on this, 190, 236. 255, 264, 287, 298.
Memorial from Presbytery of Baltimore respecting alterations, 25, 27.
Other alterations proposed, 27, 205, 278, 508, 509.
Amendments proposed to be submitted to Presbyteries on Directory, Government, and Discipline, 302. Adopted, 332. Other amendments at this time declined, 337, 340.
Committee of revision report progress, 647, 688; their report sent to Presbyteries, 701; letter to accompany this report, 702; final report of this committee, 734; this report adopted, 737; other alterations proposed, 737, farther reference, 739.
*Scripture proofs*, ordered to be appended, 59, report respecting, 66, 85, committed for publication, 88.
*Notes to the Confession.*—Question as to the authority of these notes, 608, 611, 613, 628, explanation of the notes, 629.
CONTRIBUTIONS.
Presbytery of Oneida request that they may be exempt from pecuniary collections; their prayer not granted, 279.
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.
Admitted to seats in the Assembly, 26. One from the Congregational Church admitted, 31. Abandonment of this practice, 42. Requisition, that it should be mentioned in records to what body they belong, 578.

CORRESPONDENCE—WITH OTHER CHURCHES.

*Dutch Reformed and Associate Reformed.*—Report of a committee on convention with Associate Reformed and Dutch Reformed churches for 1789, 9.

Proposition from the Dutch Reformed Church for measures to promote mutual intercourse between the General Assembly and Synods of the Dutch Reformed and Associate Reformed Synods, 144. A committee on the part of the Assembly appointed for this purpose, 146. The convention of the three committees report to the Assembly by their minutes, 161. The plan proposed by this convention adopted by the Assembly, 164. This plan subsequently declined by both the Associate Reformed and Dutch Reformed Synods, 203. A subsequent overture to the Associate Reformed Church for correspondence, 704. The reply to this overture, 707. Further notices of the same, 724, 725, 726, 727, 730. A plan for this correspondence adopted, 731.

*Congregational Churches.* A proposition to renew intercourse with these churches in New England, 29. A report of a committee on the subject, 33. A committee appointed to consult with the Congregational ministers in New Haven, 33. Report of this committee recommending an interchange of delegates agreed to, 52.

*Connecticut.*—Delegates from the General Association of Connecticut first received, 64. A committee of correspondence appointed, 65. Mode of appointing delegates, 109, 139. Proposition made that the mutual delegates should not only deliberate but vote, 80. This agreed to by the Association, 96.

*New Hampshire.*—A proposition from the General Association of New Hampshire for correspondence agreed to, 435. Agreed that there should be an interchange of one delegate, 607.

*Vermont.*—The convention of Vermont propose intercourse, and their doctrine inquired into, 249. The proposition further referred to, 276. The intercourse mutually agreed on, 279 and 297.

*Massachusetts.*—A proposition from the General Association of Massachusetts agreed to, 462.

*Foreign Churches.*—An overture from the Synod of New York and New Jersey for extending correspondence to foreign churches, 123. The Assembly's action on this, 124. Report on an overture from the Synod of New York and New Jersey relative to correspondence with foreign churches, 468. Committee appointed to inquire into the doctrine and discipline of foreign churches, with reference to a correspondence, 700. Report of this committee, 731.

*Partial Correspondence.*—The Assembly sanction a correspondence between the Presbytery of Albany and the Northern Associated Presbytery, 245. A plan of correspondence approved between the Synod of Albany and the Northern Associated Presbytery and Middle Association, 404.

CUMBERLAND.

Case of the Cumberland Presbytery. Remonstrance of the late members of that Presbytery who had been deposed by the Synod of Kentucky, 378. Action of the Assembly on, 383, 384. The Assembly's letter to the Synod of Kentucky on this subject, 389. Assembly's letter to the remonstrants, 392. A petition from the remonstrants, 406. A letter in reply, 408. Reference to a letter from the Synod of Kentucky, 416. Question how members of that Presbytery should be regarded, 549. The answer to this, 551.

D.

DAYS.
Specially devoted to religious exercises.
*Fasting.*—Days of fasting appointed, 403, 409, 497, 524, 572.
*Thanksgiving.*—Day of thanksgiving appointed, 425.
*Prayer for Revival*, a day set apart for this purpose, 487.
*Devotional.*—The Assembly at each annual session was accustomed to set apart an evening for devotional exercises.

DEPOSITION.
The difference between that and excommunication, 545, 549.
Proposition to publish in the public prints the fact of ministerial suspension or deposition, 348. Agreed to, 360.

DIGEST.
A committee appointed to prepare a digest of the most important acts of the General Assembly, and of the former Synod of New York and Philadelphia, 673. Reports on, 713, 727.

DUELLING.
An overture from the Presbytery of Baltimore, requesting an expression from the Assembly against rendering funeral honours to fallen duellists, 336. The minute adopted on this subject, 339.

E.

EDUCATION.
The subject of education for the ministry is more particularly referred to under the head of candidates.
*Proposal* to establish a Board of Education, 711. Its establishment, 712. Its constitution, 714. Its first members, 717.
*Liberal.*—Letter from Rev. David Rice for the Presbytery of Transylvania, on the subject of a liberal education being a necessary qualification for licensure, 293. Reply to this, 299.

EXCOMMUNICATION.
The difference between it and deposition, 545, 549.
A question proposed how excommunication is to be carried into effect, 612.

F.

FUNDS.
*Permanent* one proposed, 38. A plan for it, 40.
*Commissioners'* fund proposed, 279, 282, 300. Plan for it, 311. An enlarged plan, 369, 385.
*Widows'* fund, attention called to it, 197.
*Missionary*, 206, 227, and frequently afterwards.
*Education*, a special fund in the hands of the Trustees of Princeton College, of which the Assembly have the direction, 40, 51, 75, 81, 85, 97, and so annually.
*Indian*—inquiry respecting a fund in Scotland, raised for the conversion of the Indians, 227, 281, 317.
*Lands in North Carolina*, 423, 438, 447, 464.

G.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
*Acts* of one Assembly conditionally censured by another, 71.
*Minutes*, annual order for publishing extracts, 9, 23, 33, &c.
*Times of Meeting*—a proposition for triennial instead of annual meetings, and its dismissal, 110, 113. A similar proposal declined, 350, 351. One session a day tried, 613.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—*Continued.*

*Places of Meeting*—proposals to change the place, 142, 317.

*Records*—the Stated Clerk not to lend its records without an order of Assembly, 237.

*A house for its Meetings*—measures proposed for erecting such an edifice, 573, 584, 601.

*Rules of the Assembly*—A committee to prepare rules, 6, 7, 34. Additional rules, 43, 57, 59. A committee to make a syllabus of rules and precedents, 123. New rules, 718.

H.

HISTORY, of the Presbyterian Church.

Order given for the preparation of materials, 38, 39, 50, 65, 80, 96, &c.

Committee appointed to write the history, 287. They report progress, 322. This committee at their own request discharged, 535. The duty committed to Dr. Miller, 535. Dr. Green associated with Dr. Miller, 718.

HOPKINSIANISM.

The Synod of Philadelphia rebuked for warning their churches against this heresy, 653.

The document of the Synod referred to in this rebuke, 655. Two protests against the decision of the Assembly in this case, 653, 654.

I. J.

INDIANS.

Frequent notices are taken of the establishment of mission schools by the Rev. Gideon Blackburn among the Cherokee tribe, e. g. 362. Mission among the Catawba tribe by the Synod of the Carolinas, 333. Mission among the Wyandot tribe by the Synod of Pittsburgh, 361, 365.

Early attention to them, 195. Catechists for them proposed, 197.

*Aid of Government.*—The Committee of Missions authorized to apply to Government for aid, 331. The same subject, 565. An overture to approve of Government measures for civilizing the Indians, 728, 734.

INFLUENCE—improper.

The Assembly expresses decided disapprobation of circulating among its members pamphlets designed to influence the decision of a pending case, 552.

JEWS.

A donation for promoting their conversion, by Mr. Lindsay, invested, 733.

JUDICIAL CASES.

(1.) Case of the Session of Salem in the Presbytery of Abingdon, 42.

(2.) Case of the Rev. A. C. Collins, a deposed minister, 67, 68, 335, 349.

(3.) Case of the Rev. Mr. Balch, charged with error in doctrine, 151. Decision in this case, 155, 157. Mr. Balch's acknowledgment, 158.

(4.) Mr. Crawford's case, his suspension for irregularity confirmed, 157.

(5.) Case of the Rev. Mr. Birch. His complaint that the Presbytery of Ohio refused to receive him, 218. Further references to Mr. Birch's difficulties, 220, 223, 245, 246, 247, 251, 272, 273, 430, 431, 453, 456.

(6.) Appeal from the church in Pittsburgh, the case not stated, and its decision, 295, 297.

(7.) Complaint of the church of Ovid against the Presbytery of Oneida, for erecting another church in their neighbourhood, 309.

(8.) Appeal of Eliza Dunlap, 336. Not sustained, 338.

(9.) Appeal of John Gordon and his wife, under suspension, 386.

JUDICIAL CASES—*Continued.*

(10.) Appeal of Rev. Francis Hindman, deposed for immorality, 444, 446, 479, 496, 504.

(11.) Case of the Rev. William C. Davis, charged with error of doctrine in his "Gospel Plan," 447, 448. His book examined and censured, 452. Protest on the subject, 456. A petition for reconsideration refused, 466, 468.

(12.) Appeal of Mr. Wiley, a post-master, suspended for attending to the business of his office on the Sabbath, not sustained, 456. Petition to reconsider this, refused, 508.

(13.) Appeal of the Rev. Thomas B. Craighead, a deposed minister, 465. Mr. Stephenson's letter in connection with this, and the reply, 465, 473. The protest of members of the Synod of Kentucky, and the appeal dismissed because the appellant failed to appear, 481. A letter from Mr. Craighead, 494. Report on this, 511.

(14.) Appeal from a Presbytery for refusing leave to prosecute a call, 547, 548.

(15.) Appeal from the Third Church in Philadelphia, arising from difficulties in settling a minister, 550, 551, 558, 559, 560, 561, 573. Another appeal from same, 581, 583.

(16.) Reference of a supposed case of a person excommunicated who had been baptized, but not received into full communion, and its indefinite postponement, 578, 589.

(17.) Appeal of Rev. W. L. McCalla, from decision of the Synod of Kentucky, 591. Synod's decision affirmed, 596.

(18.) Appeal of the Rev. Mr. Bourne, deposed by the Presbytery of Lexington, 610, 618. Report on the case, 620. Appeal taken up, 644, 645. Sentence reversed, 646. Another appeal from the same, 672. Appeal dismissed, and deposition confirmed, 682.

(19.) Appeal of Presbytery of Hudson from decision of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, for reversing the Presbytery's decision in refusing leave to prosecute a call, and the appeal sustained, 643, 644.

(20.) Appeal of the First Church, Cincinnati, from Synod of Ohio, and its withdrawal, 658, 661.

(21.) Appeal of Mr. John Todd, a deposed minister, from decision of the Synod of Kentucky, 666.

(22.) Appeal of the Presbytery of Onondaga against the Synod of Geneva, relative to the restoration of the Rev. Mr. Shepherd, who had been deposed by another body, 685. Decision, that the act of the Presbytery was wrong in restoring, but that the Synod could not rescind the act, 687.

(23.) Appeal of the Presbytery of Ohio against the Synod of Pittsburgh, for reversing the act of suspension on Rev. Andrew Gwinn, and the appeal sustained, 702, 709.

(24.) Appeal of the Presbytery of Cayuga from Synod of Geneva, in the case of Mr. Sheldon, 725.

(25.) Complaint of Mr. Wherry against act of the Synod of Pittsburgh, reversing a decision by which complainant was restored to church privileges, and the complaint sustained, 728, 738.

(26.) Complaint from First Church of Knoxville, and Assembly's reply, 741.

(27.) Overture respecting restoration of Dr. Kollock, 611, 614, 615.

(28.) Presbytery of Baltimore protests against that of Winchester for alleged intrusion, 704.

*N. B.*—Judicial cases relating to marriage to be found under the head of Marriage.

L.

LETTER.

Circular to the churches, 46. Ditto on the subject of missions, 74. Ditto to frontier inhabitants on the subject of missions, 91.

To churches in the Presbytery of Transylvania, on the subject of Slavery, 104.

To the Presbytery of Abingdon, on the subject of Schism, 129.

From the General Association of Connecticut, on Missions 141. Reply to the foregoing, 146.

From the Synod of the Carolinas on the place of meeting of the Assembly, 142.

*Pastoral*—to the churches, 152, 177, 314, 569, 661, 689.

LIBRARIES.

For ministers recommended, 182.

LICENSURE.

Case of John Gloucester, licensed by dispensation, 381, 387.

On liberal education being a qualification for licensure, 293, 299.

LITERATURE.

Resolution favourable to, 105.

LORD'S SUPPER.

Missionaries allowed to administer it where there are no regular church officers, 146.

LOTTERIES.

Question as to the morality of, 469.

M.

MARRIAGE.

*Bigamy*, case of, 27. Letter to the Assembly relating to, 28.

*Wife's niece.*—(1) Case of Charles Mitchell who had married his former wife's half-brother's daughter, 127. (2) Case of a man who had married his former wife's niece, and the decision on it, 248. This last decision reconsidered and another minute formed, 252. (3) Case of James Gaston who had married his former wife's niece, with decision, 306.

*Deceased wife's sister.*—Case of John Latham who had married his deceased wife's sister, 176. A similar case, 456, 466, 475, 480.

*Brother's widow.*—Case of William Adams who had married his brother's widow, and decision, 338, 340.

*Questions on Marriage.*—Are parents to be disciplined whose first child is born out of due time? 403. Does the impropriety of marrying a brother's widow arise from positive Bible law? 665. What is the interpretation of 11th chapter 6th section of the Book of Discipline in regard to a publication of a purpose of marriage, and reply, 741.

MAGAZINE.

Proposition to publish a monthly magazine under the direction of the Committee of Missions, 317. Plan and contract for publishing, 336, 404. Discontinued, 450.

MINISTERS.

*Foreign Ministers.*—Regulations respecting them, 148. An overture to alter part of these regulations rejected, 149. A motion to rescind said regulations rejected, 172. A minute of New York Presbytery on this subject ordered to be recorded, 172. Reply to this minute, 179. An overture from the Presbytery of Baltimore to rescind the regulations, rejected, 190. These regulations superseded by new ones, 200.

MINISTERS—*Continued.*

*Credentials of Foreign Ministers,* 98, 109, 110, 126, 168, 193, 221, 249, &c.

*Support of Ministers.*—The duty urged, 182, ditto, 341, 367.

*Invalid Ministers.*—A plan for their support overtured to Presbyteries, 90. The Presbyteries report on the inexpediency of the plan, 97. Action of Presbytery of Philadelphia on the subject, 202.

*Increase of Ministers.*—Overture on this subject, and action on it, 341, 366.

*Travelling Ministers.*—Certifying them, 52. Letter from Congregational ministers in Massachusetts relating to this subject, and the answer, 79, 87.

Proposition to revise an act relating to, 417. Reply of Assembly to this, 422.

*Questions relating to Ministers.*—May a minister hold the office of an Associate Judge? 359. Reply to this, 363. A similar question, 399.

May ministers without charges of right sit in judicatories? 613. Answered affirmatively, 615.

*A Methodist Minister* ordered to be received on trials as if he had never preached, 56. A resolution that this case is not to be a precedent, 441.

A minister (Mr. Austin) who has left the Church wishes to return, and decision, 233, 238.

MISSIONS.

Subject of missions to frontiers proposed, 10, 11. Missionaries appointed, 23, 25, 45. &c., &c.

*Synodical Missions.*—(1) Synod of the Carolinas conduct their own missions, 38, 59, 265. Resign this exercise to the Assembly, 508. (2) Synod of Virginia conduct its own missions, 43, 67, 238.. Express a desire to transfer to the Assembly the exercise of this right, 377. This the Assembly decline, 380. (3) Synod of Ohio, (through its Board of Trust,) form a missionary society, 638, 639. (4) Synod of Kentucky asks aid to conduct its missions, 280.

*Letters on Missions.*—A letter of Assembly to frontier inhabitants, 91. A letter from General Association of Connecticut, 141. Reply to this, 146.

*Standing Committee* of missions proposed, 250. Its powers defined, 257. First report, 268. Presbyteries ordered to report to this committee instead of to the Assembly, 269. Further powers of the committee, 273. Presbyteries not to interfere with their instructions, 427.

*Board of Missions* instituted, 633.

*Enlarging Missions*—action for, 632.

*Funds*—raising. 23, 32, 59, 657, 684, 705, &c., &c.

*Missionary Spirit*—ministers urged to promote, 182.

*Presbyteries* urged to send out their members by pairs to missionate, 478.

N. B. At every session this whole subject occupied much of the attention of the Assembly, and in the foregoing there is reference to a few prominent items.

MISSIONS—FOREIGN.

Reply to the American Board, that the Assembly were not yet prepared to establish a Board of Foreign Missions, 515. Proposal to unite with the Dutch Reformed and Associate Reformed churches in conducting foreign missions, 633. Constitution proposed for the United Foreign Missionary Society, 657. First report and alterations of the Constitution, 694.

MISSIONARIES.
Their compensation, 26, 60, 151. Presbyteries requested to nominate, 26. Reports of missionaries, and success, 50, 95, 84, 209, &c. Draught of commission for, 61, 103. Instructions for, 208.
MODERATORS.
Mode of induction, 34. How to be nominated, 39. Authority given to them to read communications, and decide whether they shall be submitted immediately or through the Committee of Bills, 79.

N.

NEGROES.
The instruction of them approved, 195. Catechists proposed to instruct them, 197.

O.

ORDINATION.
Evangelists to be ordained in specified cases, 86, 90, 146, 172, 337, 386, 415, 459. A case of refusal, 199. Overture on such ordinations, 456, 464. An overture on the same subject sent down to Presbyteries, 474. The result of this, 493. Another overture on the same subject indefinitely postponed, 507. Synod of the Carolinas censures the Presbytery of Harmony for ordaining *sine titulo*, without leave of a higher judicatory, 520, 522. Assembly's resolution on the subject, 523. Question of such ordinations again overtured to Presbyteries, 524. Their decision of it, 558.

P.

PLAN OF UNION.
The Plan of Union between Presbyterians and Congregationalists for frontier churches, proposed by the General Association of Connecticut, 212. A committee appointed to digest such a plan, 221. The plan presented and adopted, 224. The order for its publication and distribution, 372.
PRAYER.
Seasons for special prayer recommended, 116. Monthly concert of prayer approved, 602. Prayer for revival of religion, 487. (See Days.)
PRESBYTER.
A Presbyter cannot be excluded except by regular process, 258, 612.
PRESBYTERY.
Right of a Presbytery to judge of the qualifications of its own members, recognized in the case of Birch *versus* Presbytery of Ohio, 218. Same right ascertained in the case of the Rev. Shipley Wells, 612.
Question as to the constitutional quorum of a Presbytery, 610.
Right of a Presbytery to vote in Synod in attesting their own minutes, denied, 611.
Geographical arrangement of Presbyteries, 724, 736.
*Presbyterial changes.*
*Carlisle* divided, and that of *Huntingdon* formed, 89.
Transfer of members from *Baltimore* to *New Castle*, 171.
*Albany* divided, and *Columbia* and *Oneida* formed, 251. [Note. There is in relation to this last case a disclaimer, that it is not to be pleaded as a precedent, the Synod having not first been applied to.]
*Abingdon* transferred from the Synod of the Carolinas to that of Virginia, 279.
*Oneida* divided, and Geneva formed, 321, 324.

PRESBYTERY—*Continued.*

*Union* transferred from the Synod of the Carolinas to that of Kentucky, 417, 439.

*Charleston*, its application and reception, 188, 189, 294, 296, 341, 358, 363, 475.

*Cumberland.* [See Cumberland.]

PRESBYTERIAL ORDER.

A case overtured of a candidate leaving one Presbytery irregularly, and applying to another, 37, 43, 53. The decision of the Assembly on this, 56.

Another similar case, 38.

A complaint of one Presbytery against another for giving a certificate of good standing, without allusion to previous bad character of the individual, 41, 42.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Letter to him, 11. Reply from him, 24.

PRINTER.

For Assembly, to be chosen by the Assembly, 739.

PSALMODY.

Adam Rankin's overture in relation to the versions of Rouse and Watts, and the reply, 11.

An overture recommending the preparation of a collection of Hymns, postponed, 116.

Committee appointed to examine Watts's version as prepared by Dr. Dwight, its report, and authority given to use this version, 202, 216, 236, 249.

An inquiry whether the Assembly designed to restrict to the use of authorized versions, and reply, 359, 360.

Rev. Abijah Davis presents to each member of the Assembly a copy of his version of the Psalms, 544.

A Hymn Book for social meetings presented for inspection, and the subject dismissed, 641, 667.

Proposition for a new system of Psalmody, 716.

Proposition to enlarge the system of Psalmody, 724.

Committee appointed to prepare a new system, 740.

R.

RECORDS.

*Synodical*, to be sent up to the Assembly, and attested copies from the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas, 23.

*Sessional*, to be sent up to Presbyteries, 429, 437. Remonstrance of the Presbytery of Philadelphia on this subject, 437. Reply to this remonstrance, 453.

RELIGION.

Annual reports were required from Presbyteries on the state of religion.

*Annual Narratives*, 222, 260, 273, 308, 333, 356, 381, 401, 419, 442, 482, 497, 527, 553, 592, 618, 648, 676.

Presbyteries ordered to send up written instead of oral reports on the state of religion, 468.

REPORTS.

Rules relating to reports of judicatories from the lower to the higher, 283.

Order relating to Synodical, 292.

REVIVAL.

The great revival in the west and south, in 1803, 273, 308, 314. A letter from Presbytery of Cumberland complaining of the manner in which

REVIVAL—*Continued.*

this was noticed in the Assembly's pastoral letter, 331. Reply to this, 340. A letter from the Presbytery of Concord on the same subject, 358. Reply to this, 364.

RULING ELDERS.

A proposition for a special act in relation to their qualifications, ordination, and duties, 127. A committee appointed to report on the subject, 128. The committee report, and the subject is postponed, 131.

Has an elder the right to sit in Synod by the authority which allows him to sit in Presbytery? 403.

S.

SABBATH.

*Its observance*—Assembly's action on, 547. Pastoral letter respecting, 569.

*Sabbath Mails*—Order taken on this subject, 508. Petition to Congress on the transportation of the mail on the Sabbath, 513. Report of ill success of the petition, 519. Another petition to Congress, 565. Attention of Presbyteries called to this, 577. Overture on the subject, 578. Petitioning Congress, 597, 601, 634.

Discipline of a mail stage proprietor, 701, 713.

SCHISM.

The New-Light schism in the Synod of Kentucky, 293, 294, 310, 311. Committee appointed to visit the Synod, 312. Pastoral letter relating to the schism, 314. Report of the forementioned committee, 321, 325.

Schism in the Presbytery of Abingdon, 125, 126, 127. Letter of the Assembly relating to this case, 129.

SLAVERY.

An overture in relation to it answered, 103. A letter to the churches in Transylvania Presbytery, in reference to the forementioned overture, 104. Overture from the Synod of Ohio on the subject, 578. On the subject of disciplining members who hold slaves, 582. Petition of the Synod of Ohio on traffic in slaves, 584. Report on the two forementioned cases, 585. Overture on selling slaves who are church members, 688. Paper adopted on the subject of slavery by the Assembly of 1818, 691.

SOCIETIES.

Moral Societies for the suppression of vice recommended, 602. Same subject, 674, 684.

Charitable Society for educating indigent young men for the ministry, 580.

Overture for establishing a Tract Society, 422, 429.

STATISTICS.

Statistics of the Church at the organization of the Assembly, 14. Orders for full statistics, 82, 147, 381, 384.

Annual summary, 47, 62, and so at the close of each year's minutes.

SYNODS.

Injunction on, to secure from the Presbyteries full delegations to the Assembly, 7, 9, 22.

*Reports* of—these were annual.

*Failure in the meeting* of a Synod—how to be remedied, 109, 113.

*Boundaries*—Boundary line between Synods of Philadelphia and Virginia, 61. Ditto, between Synods of Kentucky and Ohio, 581, 641, 645. Ditto, between the Synods of Pittsburgh and Geneva, 738.

SYNODS—*Continued.*
*Changes*—*Virginia* divided, and Pittsburgh and Kentucky formed, 250
*Albany* divided, and Geneva formed, 501.
*Carolinas* divided, and South Carolina and Georgia, and North Carolina, constituted, 526.
*Ohio* formed, 547.
*Kentucky* divided, and Tennessee formed, 501, 532, 642, 643.

T.

TEMPERANCE.
Donation from Dr. Rush of one thousand copies of his pamphlet on Temperance, 467.
Report of committee on the subject of Temperance, 493, 511.
TESTIMONY.
A case stated in which parties may be witnesses, 126, 128.
A question whether the same certified testimony admissible in appeals is admissible in references, answered affirmatively, 128.
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.
Overture from Presbytery of Philadelphia for establishing one, 417. Report of committee on the subject, 430. A proposition with a letter to be sent to the Presbyteries on the subject, 431. The reports of Presbyteries on plans for a Seminary, 439. Report on a plan, 453. Letter to the churches on the subject, 457. Further notices of, 465. Communication from Princeton College for a committee of conference on the subject, and the report, 466, 470, 479. Plan for Seminary reported in part, 471, 472. Collection of funds for, 480, 486, 510, 568, 629, &c. The site fixed, 497, 533. Agreement between the College and Seminary at Princeton, 499. Alterations in the plan of the Seminary, 504, 508, 561, 581, 707, 708.
*Professors*—Dr. Alexander appointed, 512. Dr. Miller appointed, 537. Salaries fixed, 511.
*Directors*—election of, 503, 581; travelling expenses paid, 526, 627; action on their reports, 531, 561, 613, 658, 683; authorized to buy land, 561.
*Scholarships.* Thanks rendered to founders of scholarships, 614. Rule as to endowment of scholarships, 623.
Erection of edifice, 590, 591.
Plan of auxiliary Societies for support of Seminary, 571.
Females commended for their efforts in sustaining Seminary, 600.
A full statement ordered, 683.
Letter to the churches ordered, to awaken their interest in, 737.
Synod of Geneva propose to establish another Seminary, 686.
TREASURER OF THE ASSEMBLY.
His reports were presented annually.
Rule for payment of money by him, 204. Check on his accounts, 258.
TRUSTEES OF ASSEMBLY.
Mode of electing, 217. Their duties, 228. Their intercourse with the Assembly, 232.

V.

VACCINATION.
Pamphlets presented to the Assembly on this subject for distribution, 277.

THE END.

3925. HEcclUS
M.

Author

Title Mintues of the General Assembly.Vol.1.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LIBRARY

Do not remove the card from this Pocket.

Acme Library Card Pocket
Under Pat. "Ref. Index File."
Made by LIBRARY BUREAU

UTL AT DOWNSVIEW
D RANGE BAY SHLF POS ITEM C
39 14 01 11 06 009 0